



Navigating the New Assessment Landscape: An Update on the GED Testing Program

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Session Topics

Overview of the Educational Assessment Landscape

GED Test Overview

An inside look at the current GED program and recent key developments impacting the field.

GED Scoring Structure

Learn about the GED scoring system and how it evaluates high school equivalency performance.

Digital and Online Testing

The evolving landscape of digital and online-proctored testing shaping the future of GED assessments.

Future Test Development

Insight into upcoming advancements in test development and delivery for the GED program.



First, an important update!



GED Graduates

GED Testing Service · [Admin](#) · All-star contributor · March 10 ·



There is no change planned for the GED® test in June.

We know rumors like this can be unsettling, but nothing is being updated or made “harder” this year. Changing a test is a major, multi-year process involving research, development, review, and advance communication. If a change were coming, GED learners and educators would hear about it directly from us at GED Testing Service clearly and well ahead of time.

If you're preparing now, you can move forward with confidence knowing the test you're studying for is the test you'll take. We wish you the very best on your GED journey!

FYI: There is no
change planned for
the GED® test in June.



The Educational Assessment Landscape

The educational assessment landscape in 2026 is being redefined by a shift from "testing for a grade or score" to "assessing for a career."

The Rise of the "Skills Economy"

- **Competency Over Seat Time:** There is a massive move toward **Competency-Based Education (CBE)**. Assessment is no longer just about finishing a course of study; it's about proving a specific skill (e.g., "Can you manage a digital budget?") regardless of how long it took you to learn it.
- **Microcredentials and Digital Badging:** Educators (and employers) are increasingly using assessments to award "stackable" credentials. These small-scale certifications are becoming as valuable to employers as traditional diplomas.

Focus on "Essential Skills"

- Assessment is no longer just about math and reading. There is a growing focus on measuring **Human-Centered Skills**—critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and intercultural communication—which AI cannot easily replicate.

The AI (R)evolution in Assessment

The GED® Program by the Numbers

The GED® Program at a Glance



Global Reach and Scale

The GED program operates in 120 countries and has served over 21 million graduates worldwide.

Annual Exam Statistics

Each year, approximately 1.1 million GED exams are administered, producing about 145,000 new graduates annually.

High Pass Rate

The GED subject test pass rate is approximately 83%, demonstrating successful adult education outcomes.

Widely Recognized Credential

Nearly all U.S. colleges and employers accept the GED as a valid high school equivalency credential.

Who Takes the GED® Test?

Demographics of GED Test Takers

GED test takers are diverse, with a median age of 23 and 55% identifying as non-white.

Economic Challenges Faced

60% of learners earn less than \$10,000 annually when starting the GED test process.

Post-GED Education Enrollment

55% of GED completers enroll in postsecondary education within three years of earning their credential.

Completion Challenges

Only 61% complete all four GED tests; Mathematical Reasoning is the most common stopping point.



GED Learners... A Closer Look

- **Who are they?**

- **Working adults** seeking better employment and higher earning potential
- **Recent School Leavers** ready to take the next step after leaving high school early
- **Workforce Participants** in job-training programs where a credential is required
- **Aspiring College Students** who need a credential foundation before pursuing higher education
- **Incarcerated Individuals & Returned Citizens** seeking opportunity

- **Pathways the GED Credential Opens**

- Career advancement in 326+ occupations
- Community college & 4-year university enrollment
- Military enlistment eligibility
- Vocational & trade program entry
- Apprenticeship and certification programs
- A foundation for lifelong learning

The Four GED® Subject Tests



The Four GED® Subject Tests: A Snapshot

Mathematical Reasoning Test

The test lasts 115 minutes and includes quantitative and algebraic problem-solving skills, allowing calculator use on half the questions.

Reasoning Through Language Arts

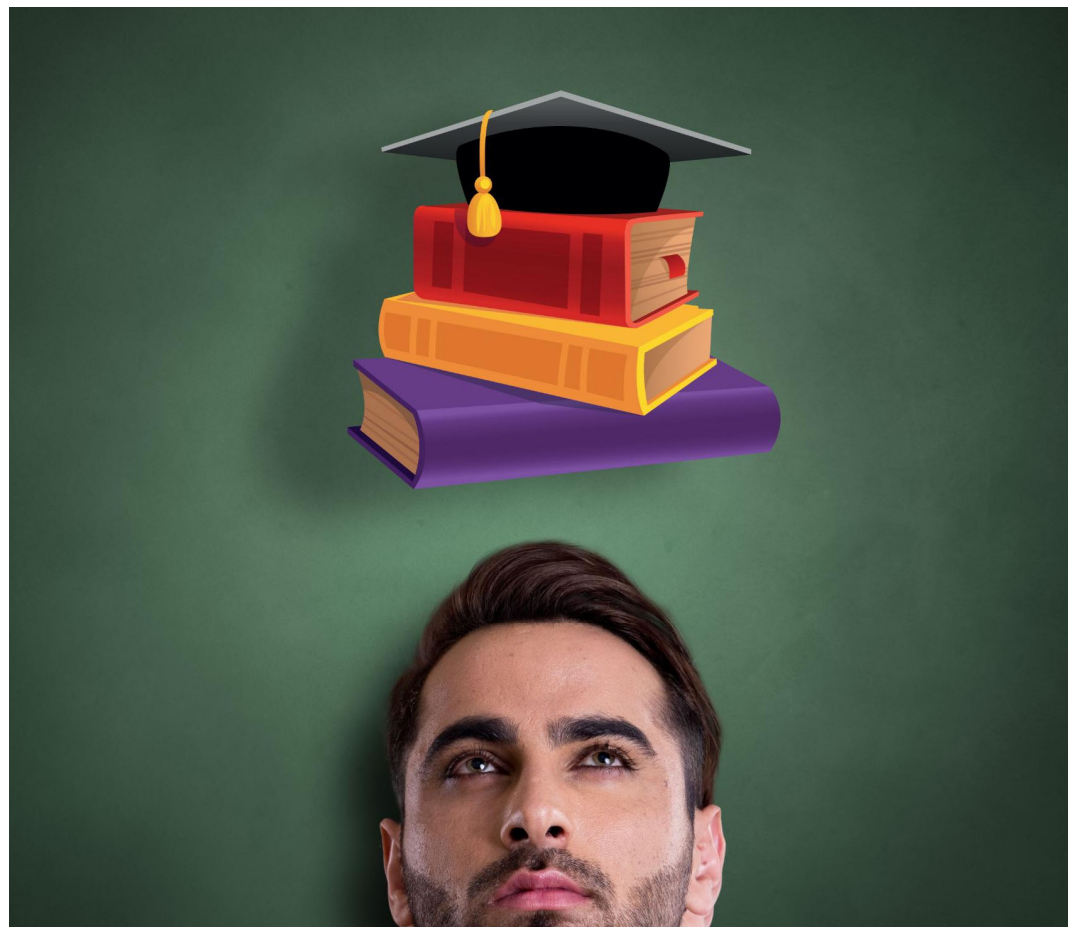
A 150-minute test assessing reading comprehension, evidence-based writing, and includes an Extended Response task for critical thinking.

Science Subject Test

The 90-minute test covers life, physical, and earth sciences focusing on data interpretation and experimental design skills.

Social Studies Test

This 70-minute test includes civics, U.S. history, economics, and geography.





The Scoring Framework: More Than Just a Pass

GED Scoring Tiers

The GED uses a three-tier scoring system: 145 for passing, 165 for College Ready, and 175 for College Ready + Credit.

Benefits of College Ready Score

A score of 165 grants placement test waivers and potential scholarship eligibility in many states.

College Ready + Credit Advantages

Scores of 175 may allow earning college credits without extra tuition and improve degree completion rates.

Postsecondary Outcomes

Higher scores correlate with better re-enrollment, degree completion rates, and higher first-year GPAs.

Long-Term Postsecondary Outcomes for GED Learners

Outcome	All Passers	College Ready	CR + Credit
Re-enrolled in Year 2	65%	70%	77%
Degree/credential within 4 years	14.5%	16.5%	20.5%
Degree/credential within 6 years	21%	24.4%	31.1%

Updates:

Assessment Content & Item Development



Mathematical Reasoning Development

Reviewing algebraic reasoning items and increasing problem-solving variety from real-world contexts.

Language Arts Enhancements

Reviewing Extended Response rubric and scoring guidance.

Science Focus on Data Skills

Emphasizing data interpretation and experimental design integrated across all science domains.

Social Studies Skill Renewal

Strengthening foundational skills alignment.

Accessibility Milestone

Tests with accommodations increased by 53% from 2023 to 2025, improving accessibility for learners.

Updates: Test Delivery & Security

The Test Delivery Landscape

Test Delivery Modalities

GED test delivery includes test centers, online proctoring, and declining paper-based testing options.

Usage Statistics

Test centers handle 90% of tests, online proctoring 10%, with paper-based testing rapidly declining.

Administrator Feedback

Administrators rate GED services highly but report issues with online proctoring and scheduling.



Test Security & Content Integrity

Challenges in Online Test Security

Fraudulent activities including AI-enabled wearables and remote proxy testing pose significant threats to test security throughout the testing industry.

Response Strategies

Expanding item banks and conducting data forensics help reduce risk and detect anomalous testing patterns effectively.

Technology Enhancements

Next-generation platforms improve auditability and content lifecycle management to secure test integrity.

Psychometric Monitoring

Rigorous monitoring and demographic analysis ensure fairness and validity of every test item.



On the Horizon: Test Development Modernization & Potential Uses of AI

On the Horizon:

Assessment Development Modernization

Next-Generation Platform

The GED program is migrating to a next-gen item authoring and banking platform supporting our full test development lifecycle.

Enhanced Features

The platform offers larger secure item banks, faster review cycles, development, and test delivery.



On the Horizon:

Potential Uses of AI in GED® Assessment Development



There is no AI-generated content in GED subject tests today.

We have begun to experiment with:

AI-Assisted Content Drafting

AI generates initial test items and passages for review by human experts who validate and edit all content before use.

Automated Metadata Tagging

AI classifies items by standard, difficulty, and content domain, subject to human audit of all outputs.

AI-Assisted Quality Review

AI flags potential bias, readability, or alignment issues early, with human final determination on flagged items.

Commitment to Fairness

Our AI integration is and will continue to be methodical and transparent, and we will always ensure validity and fairness through rigorous human expert review.

In closing...

GED Impact and Reach

Over 21 million people have been served by the GED since 1942, accepted widely by colleges and employers.

Adult Education Gap

Despite GED success, 30 million US adults still lack a high school diploma, highlighting ongoing educational needs.

Mission and Accessibility

The GED mission ensures rigorous, fair tests are accessible, meeting learners where they are to open new doors.



Thank You!

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