



Diplomas and Equivalencies: ABE Secondary Credentials

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Summer Institute 2019

3 Choices for Adults

Adult Secondary Credential Options



**Credit-
Based
Diploma**



**Test-
Based
Diploma**



**Competency-
Based
Diploma**

Comparing the Three Options

Option	Name	Main Measure	Authority	Diploma Issuer
Credit	High School Diploma	Credits (Grades, Instructional Hours)	Local K-12 School District	Local School District
Test	High School Equivalency Diploma	Passing Test Scores	GED Testing Service*	Minnesota Department of Education
Competency	Standard Adult High School Diploma	Demonstration of Competencies	Minnesota Department of Education	Minnesota Department of Education (& district?)

Diploma Option 1

Adult Secondary Credential Options



**Credit-
Based
Diploma**

**High School
Diploma**



**Test-
Based
Diploma**



**Competency-
Based
Diploma**

Credit-Based Diplomas

- AKA: Credit Completion, Credit Recovery, “Traditional” High School Diploma
- Available through ABE programs that have agreements with school districts
- Expensive to operate with ABE funding
- Time consuming for many adults
- Works best for adults that have less than 5 credits left to complete

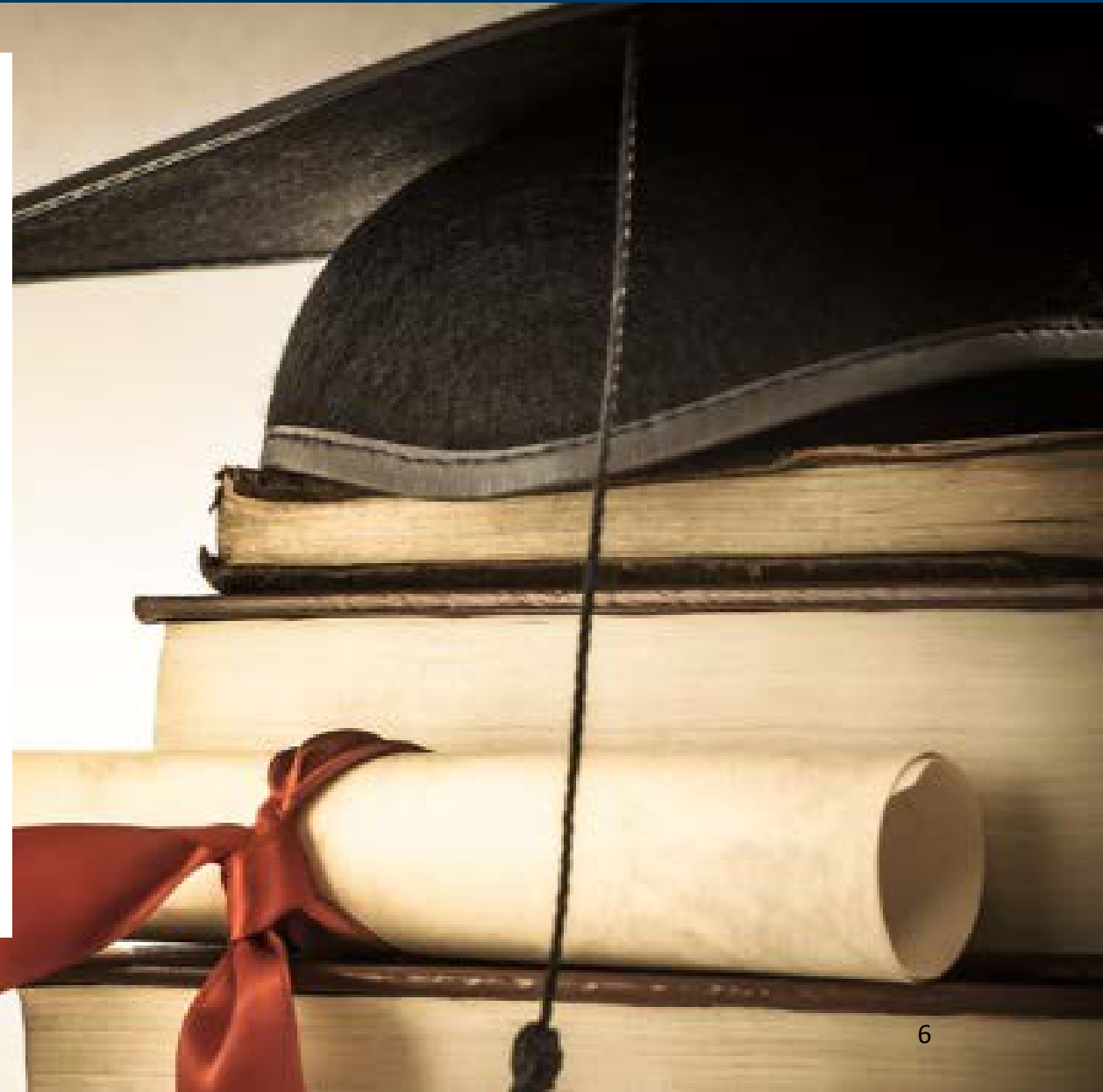
Common Local High School Diploma Program Questions

How can my ABE program get authorized to offer credit-based diplomas?

- School district must authorize and issue traditional diplomas.

Can districts serve students and offer diplomas to students over age 21?

- Yes, though if they are not an ABE program, they will not be funded for it.



Diploma Option 2

Adult Secondary Credential Options



**Credit-
Based
Diploma**



**Test-
Based
Diploma**

High School
Equivalency
Diploma



**Competency-
Based
Diploma**

Test-Based Diplomas

- AKA: High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma, GED Diploma (General Educational Development)
- Most common option in ABE
- Must test at official GED Testing Centers, often connected to ABE programs
- Series of 4 subject tests, \$30 per test
- Look at the adult's future pathway to see if there are any implications with this diploma option (e.g. U.S. Navy, Harvard University)
- GED is available whether or not an individual is enrolled in ABE:
 - Individuals 19+ years old and
 - Individuals 17-18 year old with an approved GED Age Waiver from the Minnesota Department of Education
- Works best for adults that test well and want to move on quickly

I can s

2. High School Equivalency - GED®

Welcome to the home of the GED® test, your official online resource to prepare for and earn your high school equivalency

Key GED Terms

GED Test

1. RLA (Reasoning through Language Arts)
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Studies

GED Ready

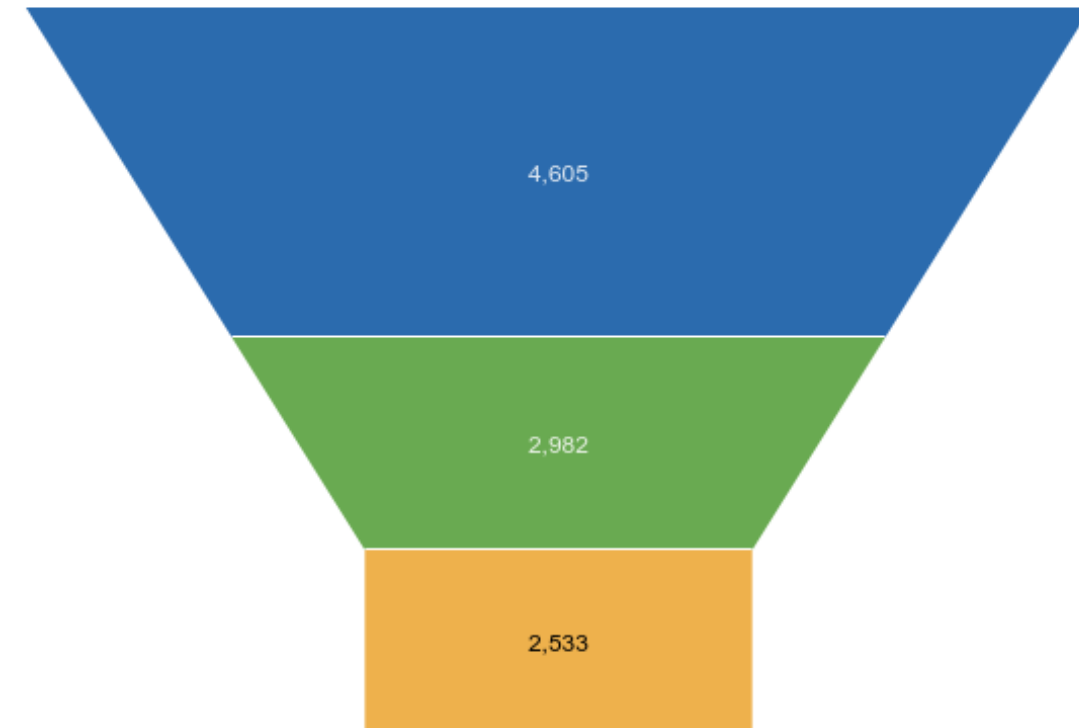
- Official practice tests (online)



14,113 GED Tests Taken in MN (July 2018-June 2019)

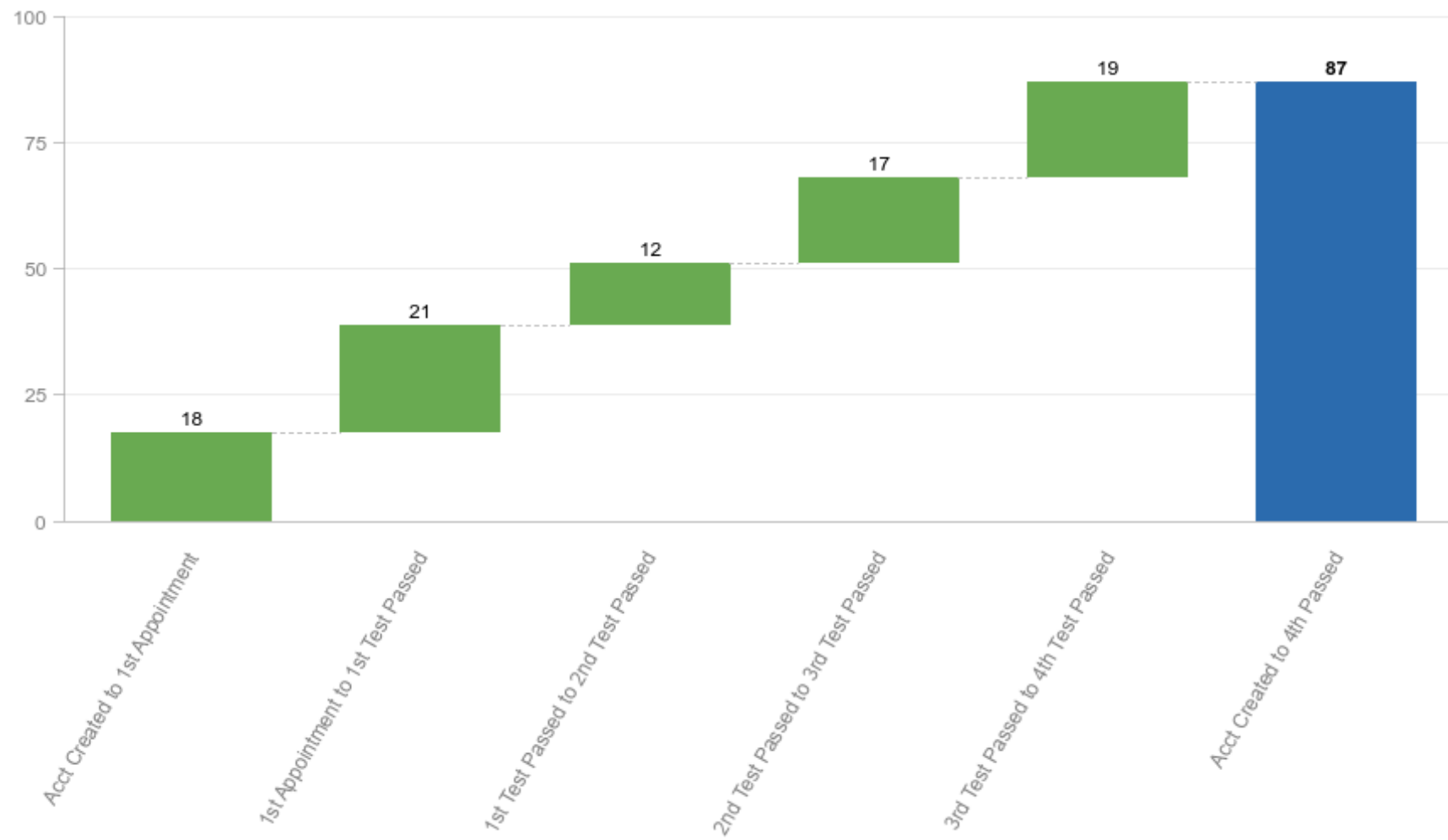
- 4,605 Testers (fewer than last year)
- 2,982 Test Completers
- **2,533 High School Equivalency Diploma Earners (more passers than last year!)**
- **85% passing rate** (compared to national 79% passing rate)
- May 2019 was the peak testing month with 1,622 GED tests taken.

GED® Test Takers to Passer Funnel Chart



The Tester's Journey

Test Taker Journey Breakdown - Average Days to Pass



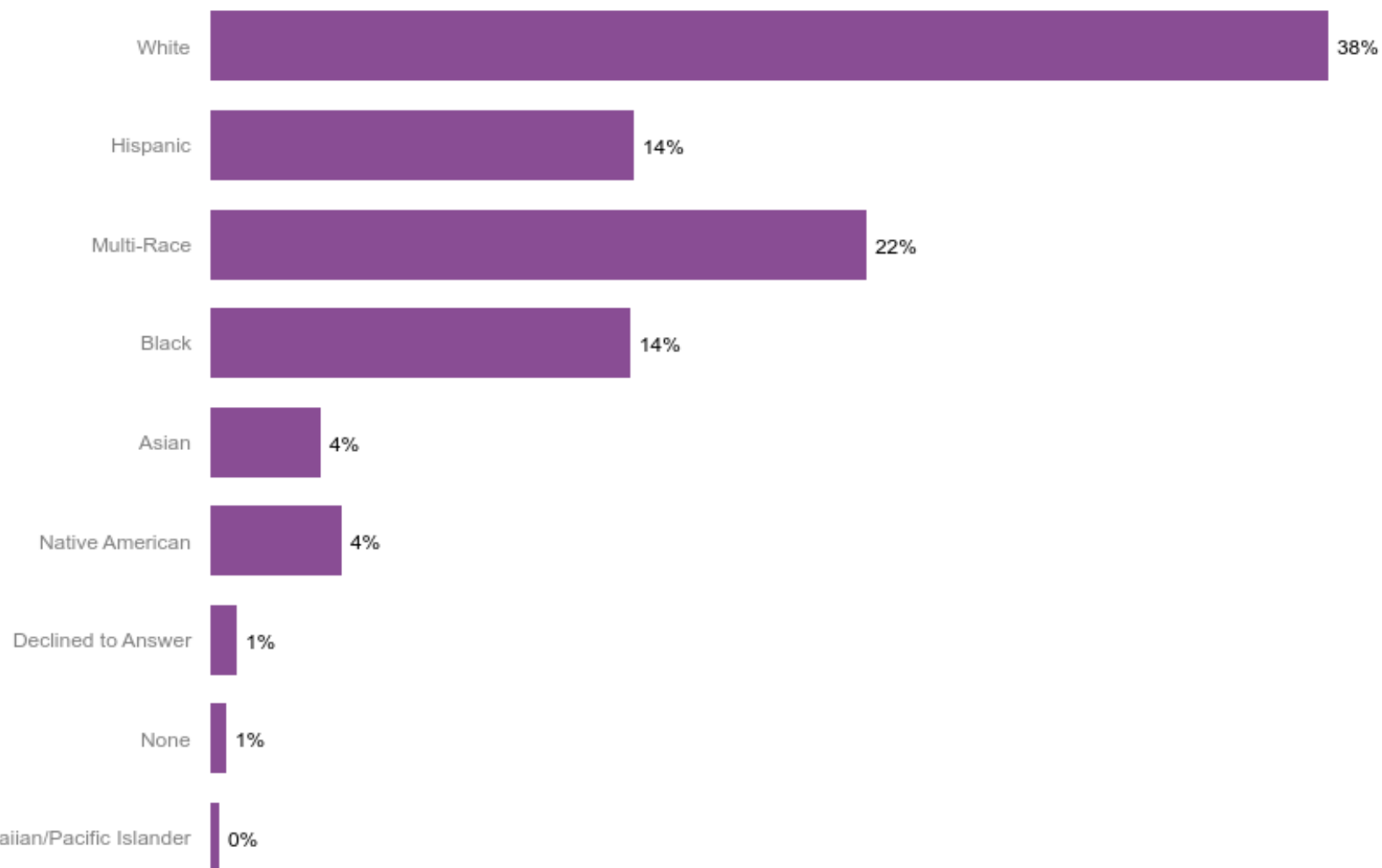
87 days on average from creation of GED.com account to earning high school equivalency diploma.

Note: instruction and preparation are unknown variables.

(Minnesota, 7/2018-6/2019)

Who are the Minnesota testers?

Race/Ethnicity Percentages



Average Age = 26

47% are employed

80% report completing 10th, 11th or 12th grade but not graduating

Gender

- 56% Male
- 40% Female
- 4% Declined

11% of Testers Needed a GED Age Waiver

To qualify for GED testing, an individual needs to be 19+ or 17-18 with an approved age waiver.

Must meet **one** of six conditions (and be verified):

1. High school class has graduated (verified by school)
2. Out of K-12 for 1+ year (verified by last school attended)
3. Potential employer requires it, offer on the table (verified by employer on letterhead)
4. Postsecondary institution approved but needs it (verified by college on letterhead)
5. Military requires it (verified by military on letterhead)
6. ABE or similar entity approves and says the person is ready to test (verified by ABE staff)
 - RLA and Math GED Ready® scores 145+ or
 - TABE 11/12 (Form A) Math and Reading scores 617+

GED Age Waiver Question

Condition #6: ABE or similar entity approves and says the person is ready to test (verified by ABE staff)

- RLA and Math GED Ready® scores 145+ or
- TABE 11/12 (Form A) Math and Reading scores 617+

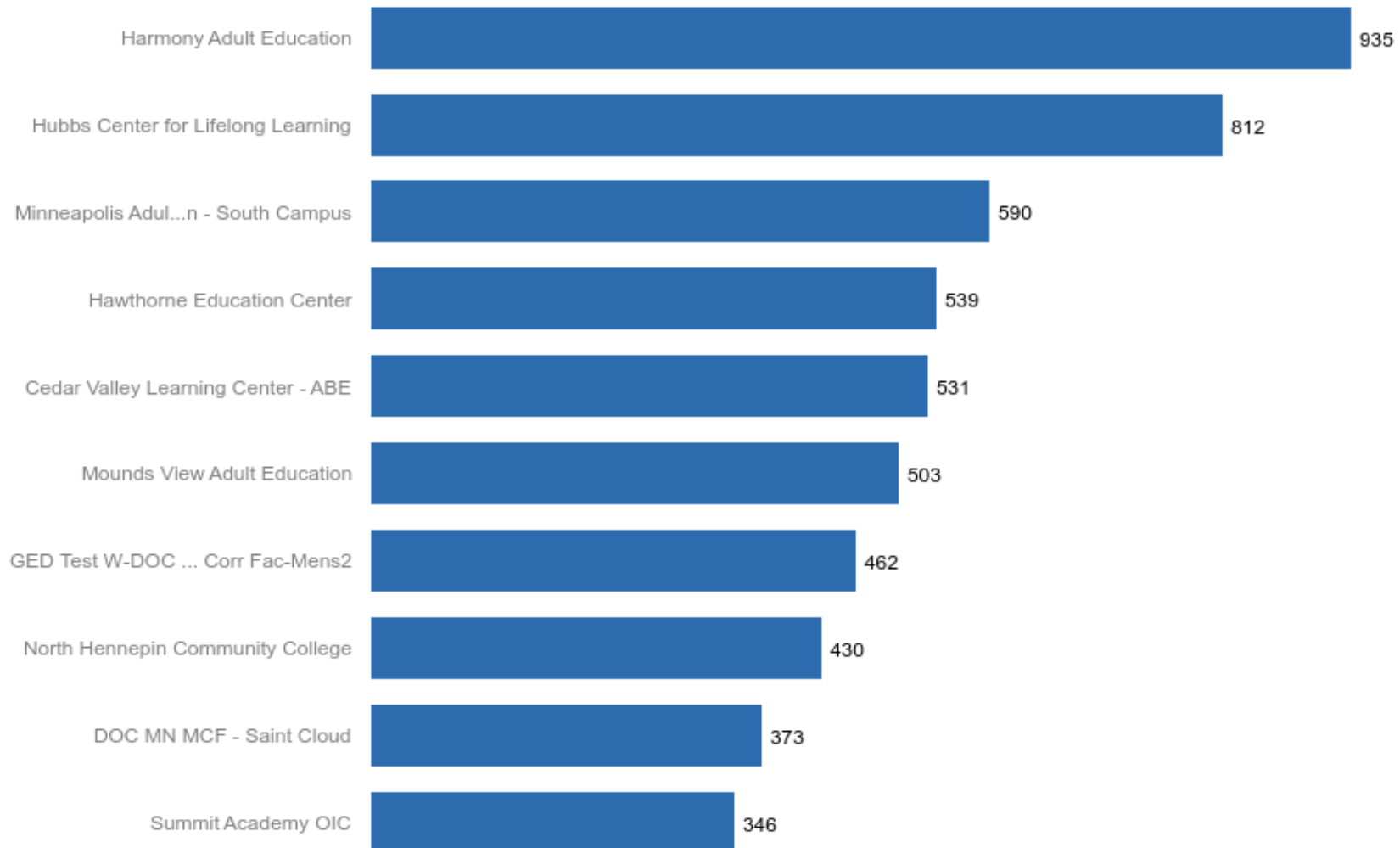
Should there be a CASAS GOALS Reading and Math score?

- If so, what should the score be?
- What information should we use to make the decision?
- Who should we consult?



196 MN GED Testing Centers (July 2018-June 2019)

Top 10 Test Centers by # of Exams Taken



GED Test Score Ranges

Score	Rating
145-164	High School Equivalency
165-174	College Ready
175+	College Ready + Credit



Minnesota GED Test Scores				
	Math	RLA	Science	Social Studies
Below Passing	14%	10%	5%	9%
Passed	86%	90%	95%	91%
Nat'l Pass % <small>All tests delivered since 1/1/2014 No filtering available</small>	85%	89%	93%	90%
High School Equivalent	79%	77%	82%	76%
College Ready	8%	13%	13%	15%
College Ready + Credit	2%	2%	2%	4%
Test	Math	RLA	Science	Social Studies
Average Score	152	154	156	155

Current G.E.D. Subsidy

- First test free in each subject (\$120 max)
- Use code **MNGED30**
- Test in Minnesota or approved border community testing center
- MN legislature allocated \$245,000 for subsidy
- Available until December or all funds are spent



Important Details on Free GED



CAUTION

- If a student does not pass or does not show up for testing, they will NOT receive the subsidy for the retake tests; they will have to pay the standard retake test price.
- Once the subsidy expires or runs out, there will be no state subsidy left and testers will have to pay the full testing fee. We cannot predict exactly when this subsidy will run out and when it does, the subsidy will automatically shut off through GED.com's system.
- The MNGED10 code no longer works. Any students that had already used the code for tests after June 30 still got the partial subsidy.
- If testers are having issues with the subsidy working, please email Brad Hasskamp (brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us).

GED State Roles

Alice Smith

- GED Records and Verifications
- Age Waivers
- Support

Brad Hasskamp

- System policies and technical assistance
- Test Center Approval
- GED Manager Authorization
- State GED Administrator

Todd Wagner

- Leadership and Additional Issues



Key GED Tool: GED Manager

Home

Welcome to GED Manager Brad!



Types of access

- Student-authorized view
- Corrections view

Features

- GED Prep Connect
- Student scores
- GED Analytics Lite

Who to Contact:

Type of Issue	Contact Info
Test taker support and GED Ready delivery	help@ged.com 1-877-EXAM-GED  (877-392-6433) 
Testing Center (Non-Tester) Support	1-866-389-3665 
Voucher questions	pearsonvuevoucherstore@pearson.com
Legal information/questions	contracts@ged.com
All other questions	operations@ged.com

Helpful Links

Challenge #2: K-12 or GED: How do students make this decision?

- Students are typically allowed and funded to attend K-12 and ALC's through age 21.
- What are the exceptions to when they might choose GED over a K-12 diploma? When do you think a GED Age Waiver is an acceptable option? How do you communicate this with students and families?



The Future of Test-Based Diplomas



2017 State Legislation

**Replace “G.E.D” with
“High School
Equivalency Test”**



What does this mean?

The Education Commissioner needs to oversee a test selection and approval process.

- This requires an official procurement process with a request for proposals (RFP) that will be developed between the Minnesota Departments of Administration and Education.
- One or multiple tests could be approved.
- By July 1, 2020, there may be different or additional tests approved.

Temporary calm waters on the HiSEAs



- Minnesota High School Equivalency Assessments
- No changes at this time
- Staff from MN Administration, Education, and Corrections agencies are finalizing the competition materials. Administration is currently editing materials.

Diploma Option 3

Adult Secondary Credential Options



**Credit-
Based
Diploma**



**Test-
Based
Diploma**



**Competence
Based
Diploma**

Standard Adult
High School
Diploma

Competency-Based Diplomas

- AKA: Standard Adult High School Equivalency Diploma (SAHSD), Standard Adult Diploma, ADP, Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Diploma
- Newest option in Minnesota through ABE
- Available through approved ABE programs trained on the SAHSD
- Works best for adults that either:
 1. Do not test well nor have many high school credits but want a high school diploma
 2. Have a variety of experience, including high school credits, college credits, tests passed, work experience, etc.

What is the State Standard Adult High School Diploma?

- Mixed competency-based in academic, career, and digital literacy skill areas
- Diploma issued by the Minnesota Department of Education, but statute encourages districts to award local district diploma to state adult diploma graduates
- Embeds into current ABE system
- **171 graduates last year**

Competency Completion Options

Domains

1. English Language Arts
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Employability, Career Awareness and Digital Literacy

Competency Completion Options

- A. Prior Experience
- B. Assessment
- C. ABE Instruction
- D. Applied and Experiential Learning

Key Adult Diploma Program Features

- Online student portfolios (currently Learner Web, building a SiD portfolio system)
- Standard transcript across all programs (in SiD)
- Student work is portable/transferable
- Advising & career/educational planning
- Field Reviewers for student portfolios



Approved State Standard Adult High School Diploma Programs

1. **Adult Options In Education** (Hopkins)
2. **Cass Lake-Bena-Walker ABE**
3. **Central Minnesota ABE** (St. Cloud)
4. **Deaf ABE**
5. **Department of Corrections**
6. **Hiawatha Valley ABE** (Red Wing)
7. **Lakeville ABE**
8. **Metro East ABE** (Roseville, Forest Lake)
9. **Metro North ABE**
10. **Metro South ABE**
11. **Minneapolis Adult Education**
12. **Northwest MN ABE Region Collaborative** (Detroit Lakes, Moorhead, Alexandria, Fergus Falls)
13. **Osseo ABE**
14. **Robbinsdale Adult Academic Program**
15. **Rochester ABE**
16. **Southeast ABE** (Faribault)
17. **Southwest MN ABE Region Collaborative** (e.g. Mankato, Marshall)
18. **St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium**
19. **Northwest Service Cooperative**



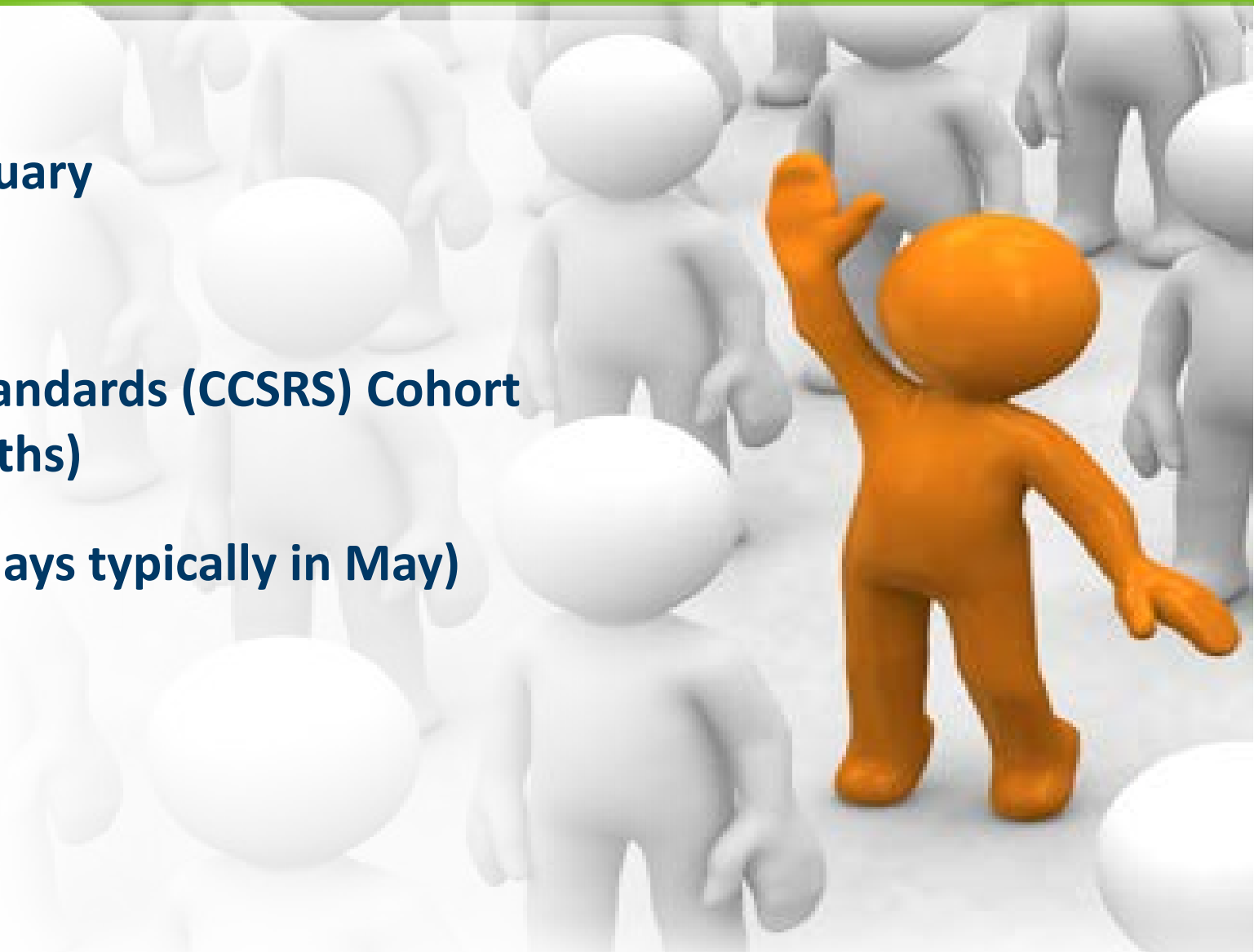
New State Standard Adult High School Diploma Programs launched annually

Application process

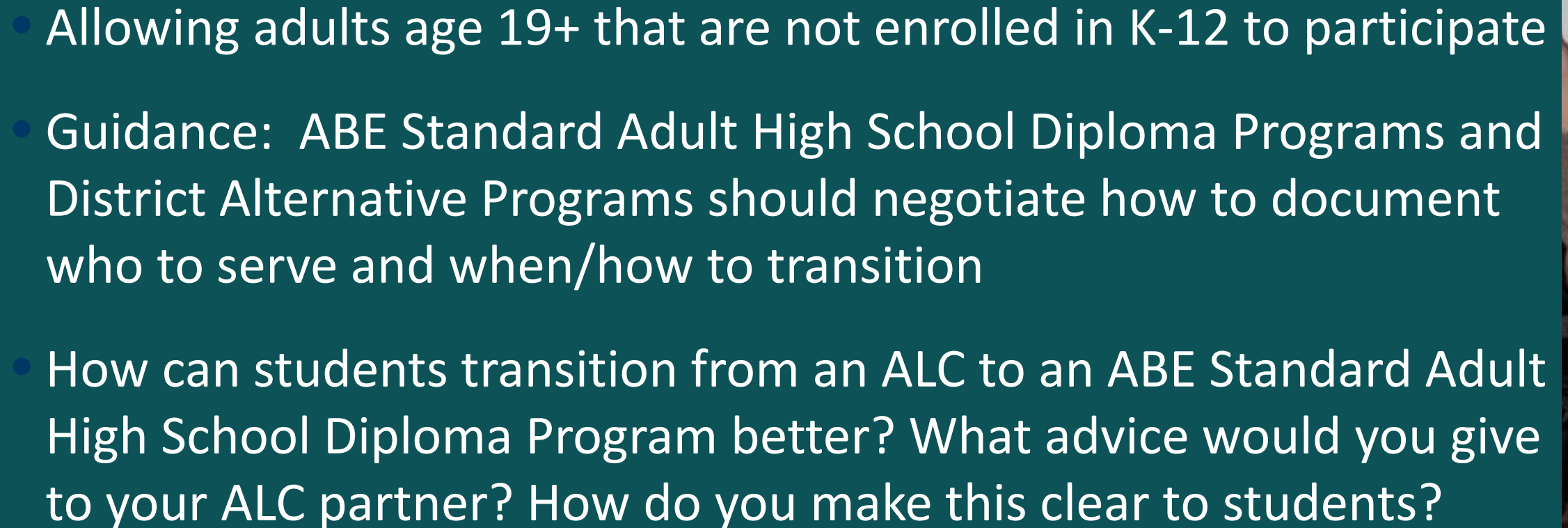
- Application typically due in February

Must complete before launching:

- College and Career Readiness Standards (CCSRS) Cohort Implementation Training (9 months)
- Standard Adult Diploma 101 (2 days typically in May)



Challenge #3: Standard Adult Diploma Age Eligibility Change

- 
- A background image showing the lower half of graduates in black gowns and mortarboard caps, with their hands raised holding their caps. The image is partially obscured by a dark teal text box.
- Allowing adults age 19+ that are not enrolled in K-12 to participate
 - Guidance: ABE Standard Adult High School Diploma Programs and District Alternative Programs should negotiate how to document who to serve and when/how to transition
 - How can students transition from an ALC to an ABE Standard Adult High School Diploma Program better? What advice would you give to your ALC partner? How do you make this clear to students?

ABE Diploma Challenges



Challenge: Communicating Options

The options are complex and changes with every local ABE program. How can you best communicate this information locally to

- Students?
- Other ABE staff?
- Partners and stakeholders?

Tips: Planning the Transition from K-12 to ABE

Needs:

- Communicate clearly with student about transition, rights, and options
- Build students basic math and ELA reading and writing skills
- Collect transcripts (unofficial is fine, clarification and explanation may be needed)
 - Example: “Integrated Math”
 - Recommendations: complete areas as much as possible (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Include test scores
- Talk with partner programs to detail more plans

Challenge: Partners



How can ABE work best with partners to transition students, complete diplomas and succeed in their next steps?

Finding ABE programs that do offer diploma options

Minnesota Adult Literacy Hotline

- **www.mnliteracy.org/hotline**
- 1-800-222-1990

Make sure your information is updated on the Hotline!



Questions



Thank you!

Brad Hasskamp

Brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us

651-582-8594