

# Diplomas and Equivalencies: Adult Secondary Credentials

ABE Summer Institute 2019

## Minnesota’s ABE Diploma Options

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

*\*Currently approved test. Official competition is in process and may affect approved options in the future.*

### Details on 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

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

A: School district must authorize and issue traditional diplomas.

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

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

### Details on 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 for all that are not enrolled in K-12, 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

#### Key GED Terms

4 GED Tests:

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

GED Ready - Official practice tests (online)

#### Minnesota GED Statistics (July 2018-June 2019)

* 14,113 GED Tests Taken
* 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.
* 87 days on average from creation of GED.com account to earning high school equivalency diploma. (Note: instruction and preparation are unknown variables.)
* 196 Testing Centers in Minnesota

**Minnesota GED Tester Details**

* Average Age = 26
  + 11% of testers needed a GED Age Waiver
* 47% are employed
* 80% report completing 10th, 11th or 12th grade but not graduating
* Gender
  + 56% Male
  + 40% Female
  + 4% Declined

#### GED Age Waiver

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

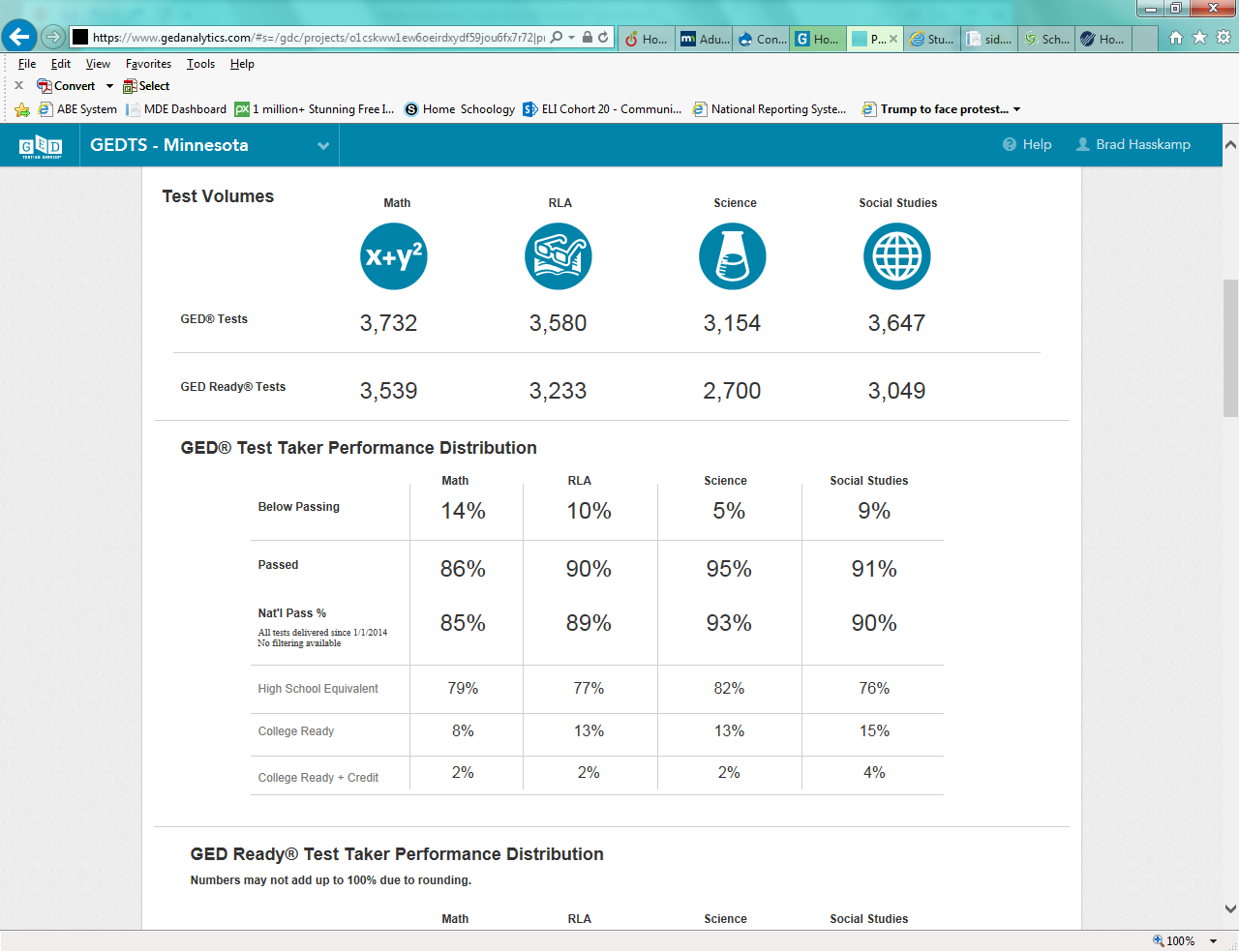
Must meet one of six conditions (and be verified):

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) with:
   1. RLA and Math GED Ready® scores 145+ or
   2. TABE 11/12 (Form A) Math and Reading scores 617+

#### GED Test Scores

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

**Minnesota GED Test Scores (July 2018-June 2019)**



#### GED Subsidy (Current)

* 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

Additional Details about the subsidy:

* 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](mailto:brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us)).

#### Staff Roles with GED at Minnesota Department of Education

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 Resource: GED Manager

Types of access

* Student-authorized view
* Corrections view

Features

* Contact interested potential students GED Prep Connect
* See student test scores
* Access additional data and infographics on testing with GED Analytics Lite

### Details on 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:
* Do not test well nor have many high school credits but want a high school diploma
* Have a variety of experience, including high school credits, college credits, tests passed, work experience, etc.
* 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

There are five subjects or domains that a student must demonstrate competency in order to earn their Standard Adult High School Diploma:

| **Domain** | **Areas** |
| --- | --- |
| **English Language Arts** | Reading  Writing  Language  Speaking and Listening |
| **Mathematics** | Number Sense  Algebra  Geometry  Data, Statistics and Probability |
| **Science** | Nature of Science and Engineering  Life Science  Physical Science  Earth and Space Science |
| **Social Studies** | U.S. Government and Citizenship  Economics  History  Geography |
| **Employability and Career Awareness** | Self-Management  Developing a Future Pathway  Navigating Systems  Digital Literacy |

#### Mix and Match: Adult students can choose their completion options

Standard Adult Diploma students have choices in creating their individual learning plan. This helps recognize their experience and skills while working with their ABE program to adapt their path according to their future career pathway. Students may successfully demonstrate each competency through one of the following options:

* **Prior Experience-Based Competency Verification** (K-12, postsecondary or other experiences)
* **Test-Verified Knowledge** (approved standardized assessment for high schools, secondary credentials, ABE programs and/or postsecondary entrance exams)
* **ABE Course Demonstration** (These are classes that offer academic, employability and career content, like adult diploma classes, test-preparation classes, college readiness classes, subject-specific classes, integrated education and training, etc.)
* **Applied and Experiential Learning** (through an approved contextualized project)

#### How to start a new Standard Adult High School Diploma program:

Must get approval from the Minnesota Department of Education’s ABE Office, which includes an application and training.

Applications

* Application process annually (Application typically due in February)

Training

* Program must have some staff complete the following trainings before launching your program:
  + College and Career Readiness Standards (CCSRS) Cohort Implementation Training (9 months)
  + Standard Adult Diploma 101 (2 days typically in May)

## Presenter Info

Brad Hasskamp

Brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us

651-582-8594