

Welcome to the Minnesota GED Testing Meeting!

We'll begin at 9:30.

Please introduce yourself in the chat with your name, your GED testing center location(s), and anything else you would like to share!

This PowerPoint and materials are in the materials tab.

If you are having any tech issues, please chat to Astrid for assistance.



Recording Today's Session



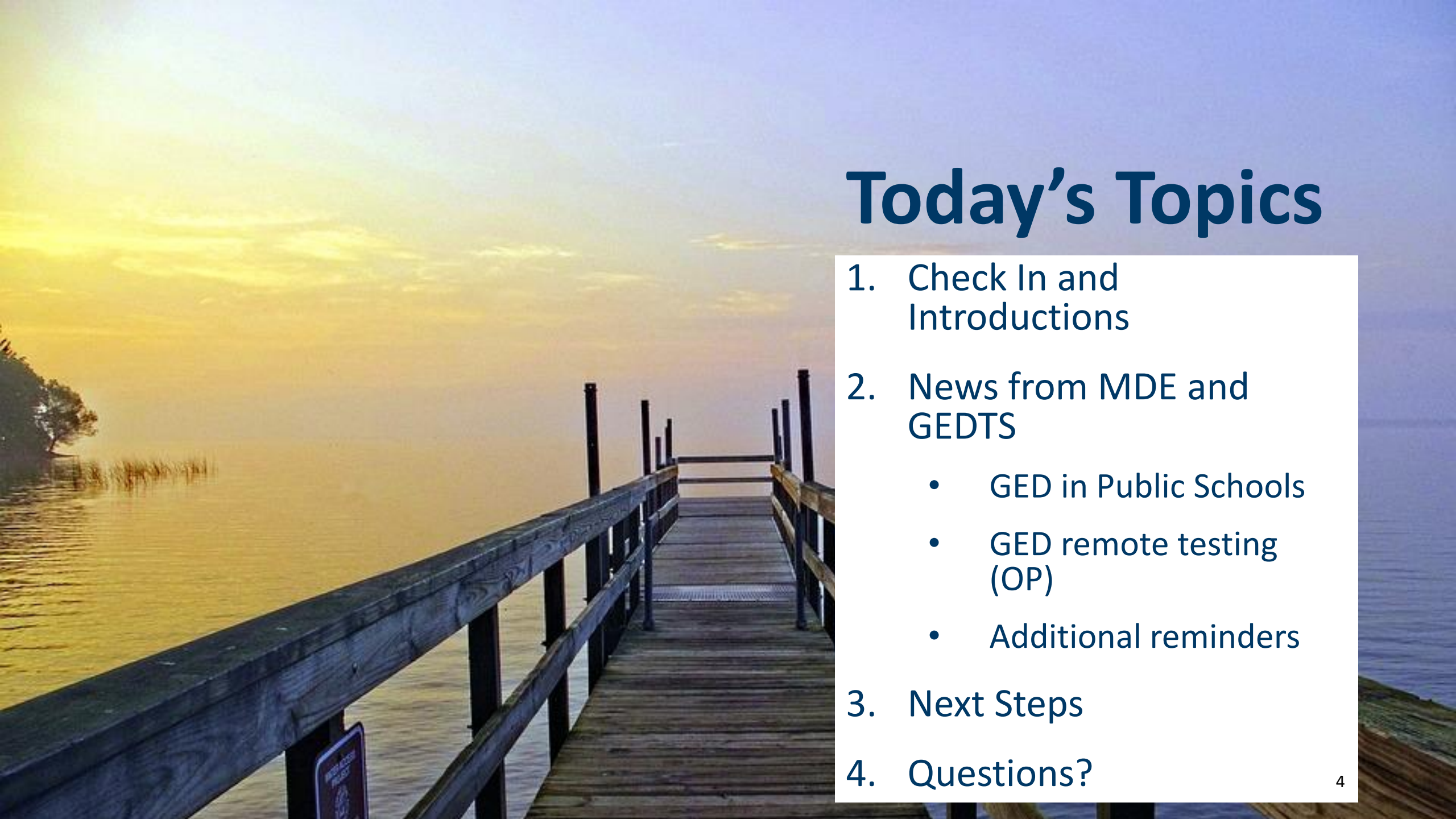
We will post the recording at mnabe.org
in State ABE Presentations.



Minnesota GED Testing Meeting

Facilitator: Brad Hasskamp, Adult Secondary Credential and Education Policy Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education

May 7, 2020



Today's Topics

1. Check In and Introductions
2. News from MDE and GEDTS
 - GED in Public Schools
 - GED remote testing (OP)
 - Additional reminders
3. Next Steps
4. Questions?

Who's Here?

Brad Hasskamp, Adult Secondary
Credentials & Policy, MDE

Todd Wagner, State ABE Director MDE

Alice Smith, GED Records Specialist,
MDE

Astrid Liden, ABE Professional
Development, MDE (technical
assistance)

Mellissa Hultstrand, State Relationship
Manager, GED Testing Service

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News from Minnesota Department of Education and GED Testing Service

Check Out the Materials

Four resources:

1. Statement on Permitting GED Testing in Public School Buildings (MDE Adult Education)
2. School Building Use Guidance (MDH)
3. Distance Learning Implementation Guidance (MDE)
4. Meeting Slides (MDE Adult Education)



Statement on Permitting GED Testing in Public School Buildings

May 6, 2020

Yesterday, Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner, Mary Kathryn Ricker, announced that operating a GED Testing Center in compliance with Minnesota Department of Health guidelines is an allowable use of a school building (View the School Building Use Section of the [Minnesota Distance Teaching and Learning Implementation Guidance](#) (link below).

Please note that it is my understanding that the Commissioner's "allowable use of a school building" provision:

1. Applies only to GED Testing Centers located in K-12 public schools; the provision does not apply to GED Testing Centers located in non-school buildings which continue to be subject to other Executive Order provisions.
2. Is permissive, meaning it permits, but does not require GED Testing Centers located in public schools to re-open.
3. Requires that programs follow the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidance provided in the [School Building Use Guidance for In-Person Assessments/Hands-On Course Completion](#) (link below).
4. Does not waive GED Testing Service or Pearson VUE requirements regarding test center operations. GED Testing Centers must comply with all GED Testing Service and Pearson VUE requirements, while also following Minnesota Department of Health guidance.

Important Links

- [Minnesota Department of Education's COVID-19 Updates](#)



School Building Use Guidance for In-Person Assessments/Hands-On Course Completion

UPDATED 4/29/2020

This guidance is intended to support school districts and charter schools offering in-person assessments and hands-on course completion appointments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Education has identified specific purposes for this building use, outlined in the Use of School Facilities section of the [Minnesota Distance Teaching and Learning Implementation Guidance](#). School districts and charter schools may only use this exception if all virtual/distance options have been exhausted AND compliance with the health guidance outlined below can be ensured.

Scheduling and Screening Upon Arrival

- Individual, in-person assessments, or hands-on course completion sessions should be scheduled by appointment only. Appointment schedules should include staggered arrival and completion times to minimize the potential for gathering. Appointment schedules must also allow adequate time for cleaning of high-touch surfaces, assessment spaces, and shared equipment between appointments.
- When feasible, staff members and individuals completing assessments or hands-on course completions should wear face coverings within the facility. Have clean cloth facemasks available for all individuals entering the facility, and ensure masks that will be reused by staff are washed between uses.
- Review policies to ensure that individuals who are ill will not be penalized for rescheduling appointments.
- Establish procedures for discontinuing the scheduled assessment or hands-on course and cleaning the space if an individual or staff member becomes ill during the scheduled appointment.
- Health screenings should be conducted for all individuals entering the facility.

Minnesota

Distance Teaching and Learning Implementation Guidance



Minnesota GED Testing Meeting

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Access to School Buildings for GED Testing

Guidance from Education Commissioner

On May 5, Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner, Mary Cathryn Ricker, announced that operating a GED Testing Center in compliance with Minnesota Department of Health guidelines is an allowable use of a public school building.



Guidance from Education Commissioner

- **Applies only to GED Testing in schools;** the provision does not necessarily apply to other tests, such as NRS assessments, GED Ready, or other Pearson VUE assessments.

GED Testing: Only GED



Guidance from Education Commissioner

- Is **permissive**, meaning it permits but does not require GED Testing Centers located in public schools to re-open.

GED Testing at Schools: Permissive



Guidance from Education Commissioner

- Requires that programs **follow the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidance** provided in the School Building Use Guidance for In-Person Assessment/Hands-On Course Completion.

GED Testing: Adhere to MDH Guidance



School Building Use Guidance for In-Person Assessments/Hands-On Course Completion

UPDATED 4/29/2020

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- Establish procedures for discontinuing the scheduled assessment or hands-on course

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Guidance

Attached PDF

Details:

- Scheduling and Screening at Arrival
- Preparing Materials and Equipment
- Maintaining a Safe Environment

Guidance from Education Commissioner

- **Applies only to GED Testing Centers located in K-12 public schools;** the provision does not apply to GED Testing Centers located in non-school buildings which continue to be subject to other Executive Order provisions.

GED Testing: Public Schools



What about GED Testing Centers that are not in public school buildings?



Governor's Executive Orders

- Stay at Home
- Business operations, especially on those working face-to-face with clients/customers and what is considered essential

MDE Adult Education Office Perspective

Local organizations will make decisions and plans on GED testing, adhering to governor's executive orders, guidance from GEDTS and Pearson VUE, and guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health.

MDE Adult Education Office and GED Testing Service will continue to provide guidance and need to know your plans as they evolve.

Guidance from Education Commissioner

- **Does not waive GED Testing Service or Pearson VUE requirements** regarding test center operations. GED Testing Centers must comply with all GED Testing Service and Pearson VUE requirements, while also following Minnesota Department of Health guidance.

GED Testing: Adhere to Pearson VUE and GEDTS Policies and Guidelines



Guidance from GED Testing Service

- **Sites will have to go into Site Manager to configure their open days / hours.**
- **If sites need additional help call Channel Quality at 1-866-389-3665, option #2.**

Opening Procedures in GED Software



Questions about the Education Commissioner's Announcement on GED Testing in Schools



1. Will personal protective equipment (PPE, such as masks and gloves) be required to be worn by testers?
2. Who provides the personal protective equipment?
3. Will ged.com update their "list of things to bring to testing" to include PPE?
4. If a student gets "screened out" by a test center (because someone shows up with a fever, for example), will the tester get to reschedule at no cost to the tester, or will they be charged for that session (or use up their free voucher)?

More Questions: Education Commissioner's Announcement on GED Testing in Schools



Exploring OP (GED Online Proctored Testing)

Minnesota plans to participate in OP

- Must be taken by tester on computer meeting technical requirements.
- Not available until 3rd week of May at the earliest
- Test cost is same as on-site GED testing
- Proctors from OnVUE
- Prioritized nationally
 - Top: For those with GED Ready testing green score (within 60 days of scheduling test) and either: a cancelled test due to school closure or 1 test left
 - Next (state-determined priorities): those with job offers, those enlisting in the military, court ordered and GED Ready green
 - **Send priority testers (name and GED ID#) to brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us.**

National GED OP Phases

1. Initial Pilot (3-4 states, does not include MN): This phase will likely last about 4 days
2. Add states without residency requirement (MN included)
3. All testers with a GED Ready Green Score within the last 60 days
4. Add states with residency requirements

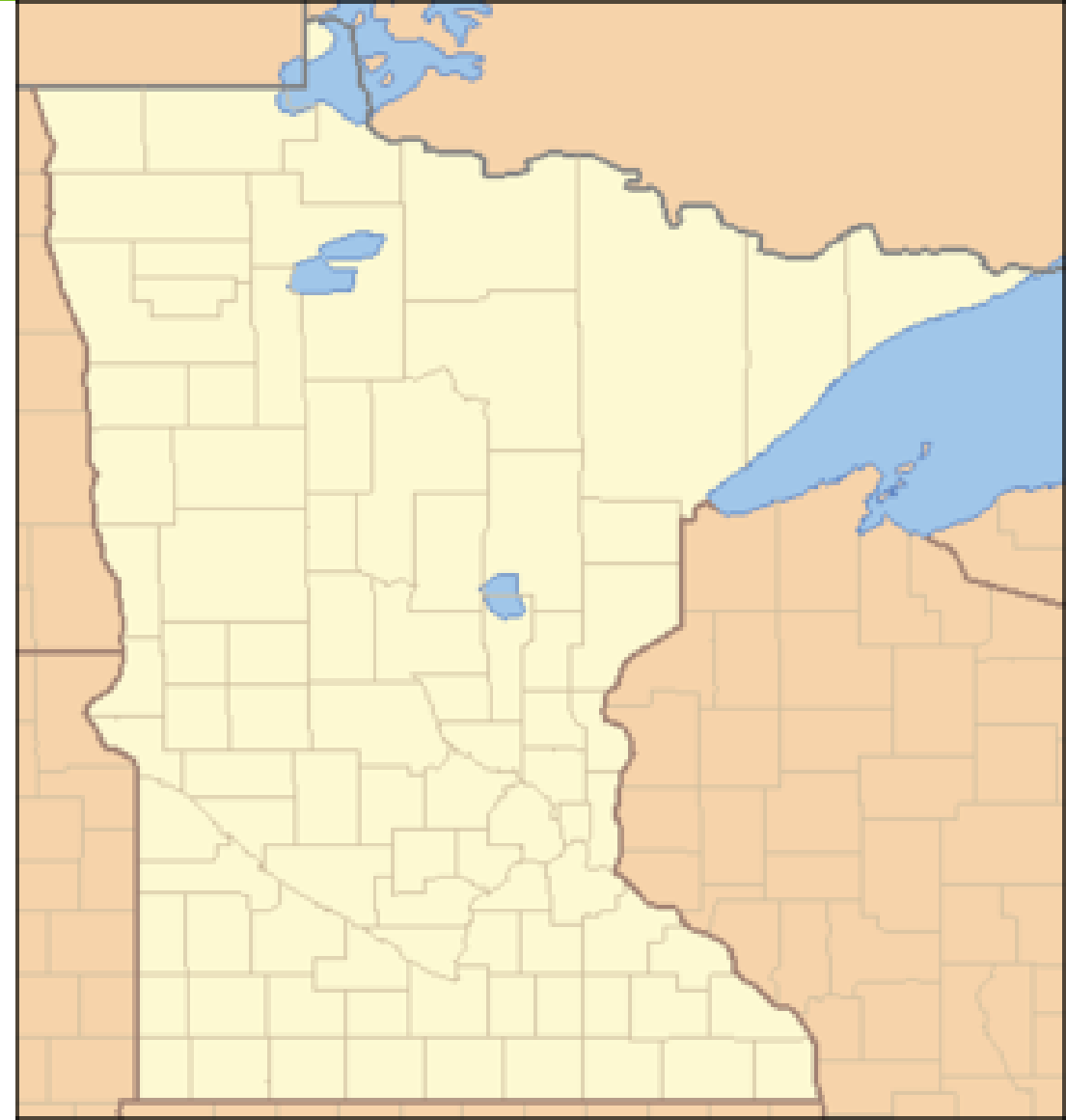
Discuss next steps



Minnesota's OP Participation

Additional Details From GED Testing Service:

- For Phase 2 GEDTS will invite those with a cancelled test since mid-March time frame as well as those testers who have passed 3 of 4 subjects. NOTE: All individuals in these two groups will have to show a GED Ready green in the past 60 days in order to schedule.
- Also, GEDTS will invite all individuals who have a GED Ready Green in the past 60 days. These individuals do not need to have a cancelled test or 3 out of 4 subjects passed in order to schedule.
- GEDTS will also send the invite to those on Minnesota's extenuating circumstances list, but it looks like all of these people will have to score GED Ready green.



GED Ready proctoring for age waiver

Train On-Site Adult to Proctor: An ABE program can train an adult (like a parent) to be in the room with the tester. After testing, the program would check with the proctor to ask about the testing and any questions the proctor may have.

Remote proctoring: The ABE program could virtually proctor the test by watching the potential tester complete the GED Ready Test. This could be via a video call on a device (laptop, smart phone, tablet. etc.).

Other ideas?



GED Ready proctor requirements

Proctors must be able to:

- Watch the tester complete the entire test;
- Know what is and is not allowed during testing;
- Verify that the tester did not use a device or resource not allowed during testing;
- Check that the student is not recording the test questions or responses; and
- Assure that the tester did not cheat.



GED Subsidy Code Update: MNGED30

Still funding left, though not currently being used.

July-March: Nearly 90% of the subsidy has been spent (\$28,830 left).

Subsidy is currently approved by to get same funding again starting July 2020.



GED Ready Promotion



Home / Study /

- Those with a cancelled test are getting a free GED Ready voucher.
- All others can take GED Ready for 50% off.
- Promo which will be introduced later this month for all.

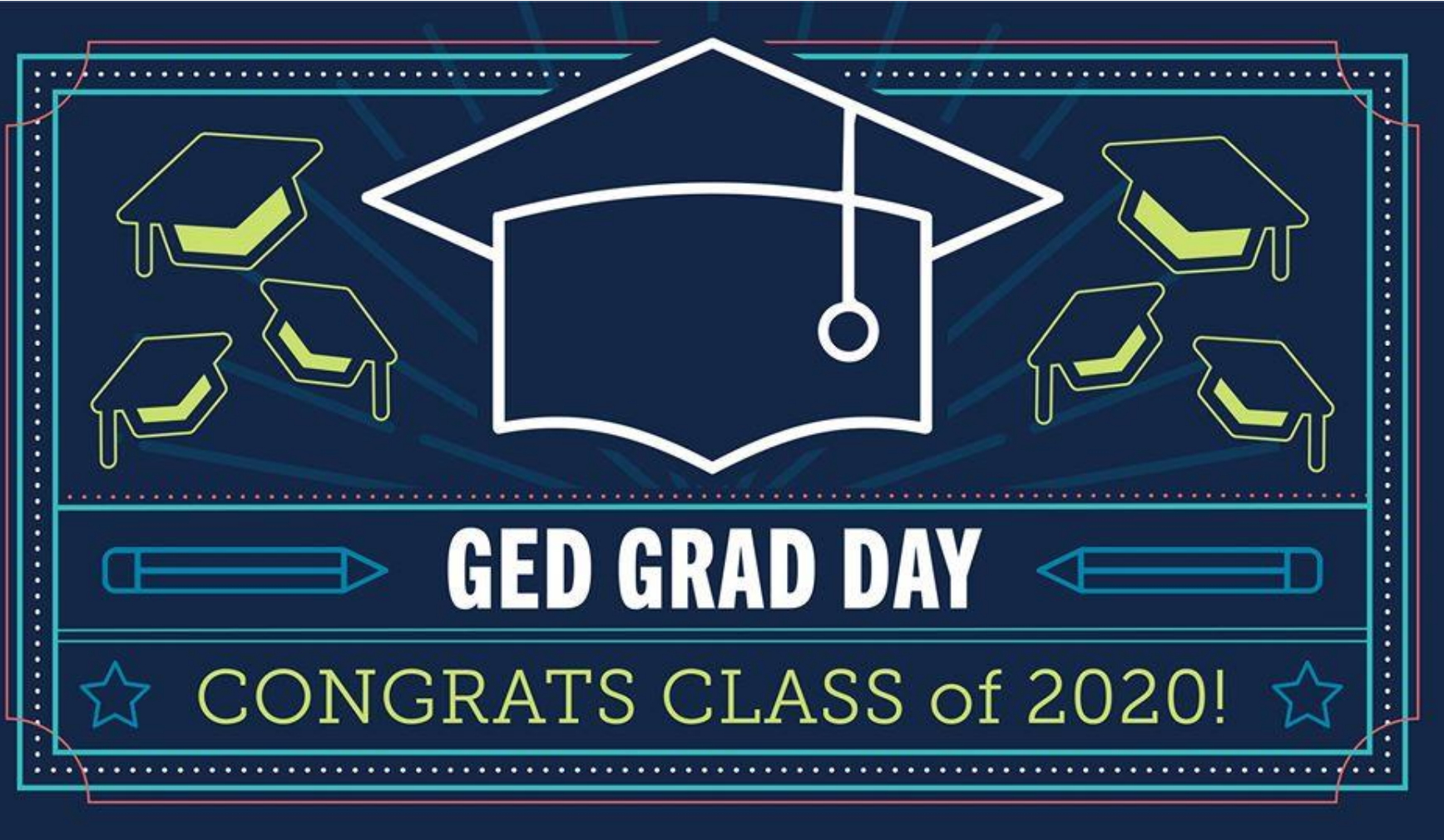
Blog

Log In

SIGN UP



GED Grad Day: May 14, 2020



#GEDGradDay

- Celebrate via social media
- Grads share photos & stories
- GED/ABE staff send congratulations

Other GED Testing Service Announcements?

be a role model

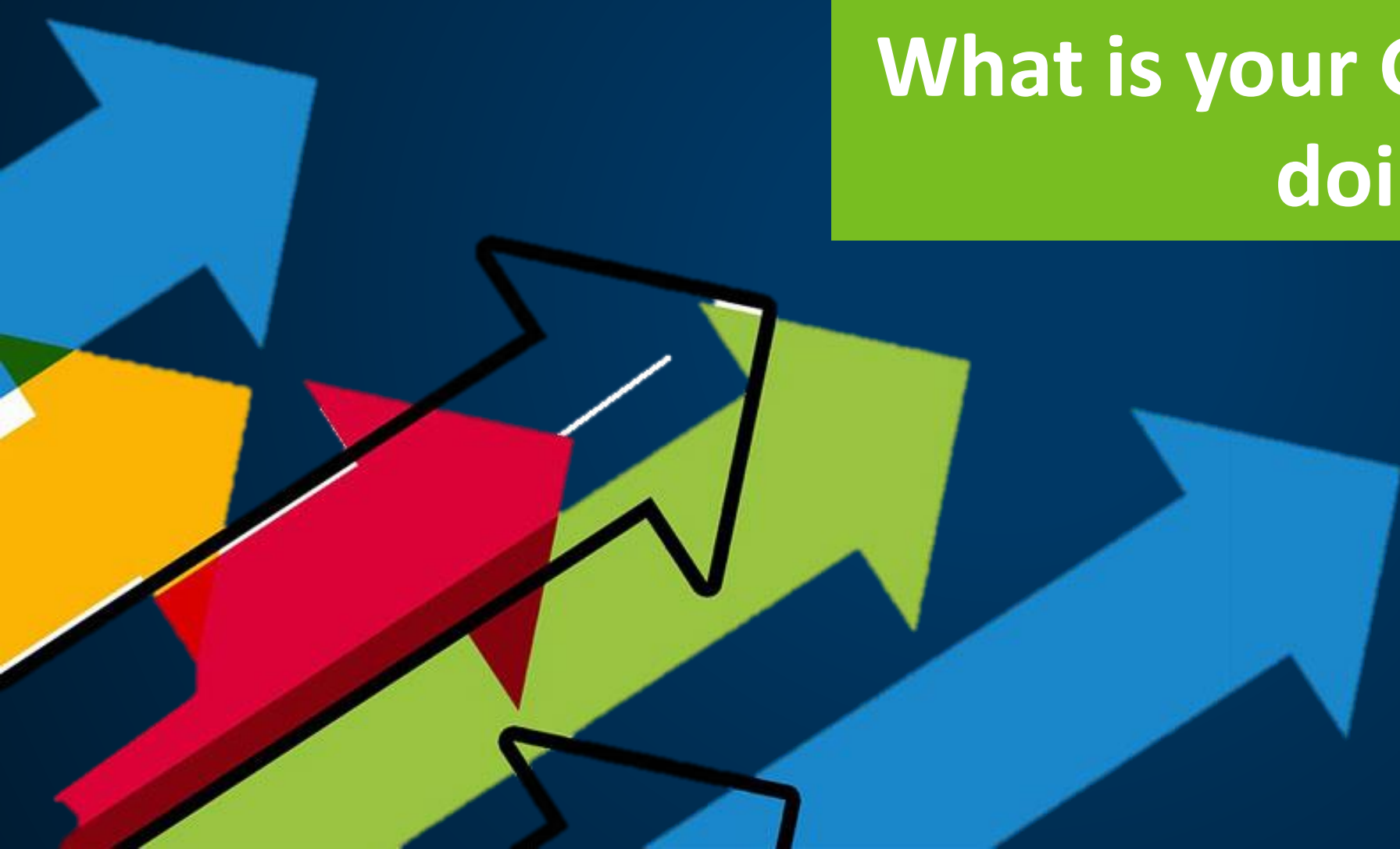
I can earn my GED

go to college

Mellissa Hultstrand, GED Testing Service

Next steps?

What is your GED Test Center
doing or planning?





What
questions
do you
have?

Thank you for your time and your thoughts!

Brad Hasskamp

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