



Changes to HSE Testing During  
the COVID Crisis  
First Literacy October 1, 2021

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# Evolution of HSE Testing

# The Evolution of the GED Test, 1942-2013

- 1942
  - ACE – With the Pentagon - Returning WWII GIs
  - Carnegie unit research solution applied to a different problem
- 1947
  - Civilian non-graduates
  - State certifications
- 1972-1978
  - Application of conceptual knowledge
  - Evaluation of presented information
- 1988
  - Essay
  - Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- 2002
  - Initial attempt to build in college and career readiness –
  - Calculator for math
  - Centralized Scoring
- 2011
  - Change is Coming



# The Evolution of the HSE Testing

- 2014: The Brave New World
- A noble premise from GED: to make the assessment and credentialing process not an end itself but instead a part of a comprehensive system leading to further education, training, and family-sustaining wages.

# The Evolution of the HSE Testing

- Exams needed to align with President Obama's mandate that High School Graduates demonstrate College and Career Readiness by 2020.
- Recognition that exam planned for 2012 was not aligned to College and Career Readiness Standards.
- Shift from Bloom's Taxonomy to Webb's Depth of Knowledge.

# The Evolution of the HSE Testing

- **Clouds in the Silver Lining**

- Completely computer-delivered.
- Fully aligned to the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education /Common Core
- ACE merged with PearsonVue to become a for-profit corporation – GEDTS LLC.
- Price would be double!



# The Evolution of the HSE Testing

- States looked for other options- Issued RFR
  - HiSET from the Educational Testing Service
  - TASC from McGraw-Hill (now owned by Data Recognition Corporation)



# The Evolution of the HSE Testing

- **2014 Massachusetts chose the HiSET®**
  - Three year contract.
- **2017 GED® is back in Massachusetts**
  - Initial 3-year contract expired December 31, 2016, so a new RFR was issued for a contract to begin January 1, 2017. The same three assessments applied, but this time Massachusetts chose two assessments, the HiSET® and GED®.
  - Currently: HiSET – 23 states
  - GED – 43 states
  - TASC -4 states (Suspended in 3)
  - 16 states deliver multiple assessments
  - Changed the vernacular from GED® to HSE
  - HiSET® evolved to better alignment to CCRSAE year to year

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# COVID 19 - GED O/P<sup>®</sup> and HiSET at Home<sup>®</sup>

# COVID 19 GED OP® and HiSET at Home®

- March 13, 2020 – Governor Baker Declares State of Emergency in Massachusetts
- All Computer Based Test Centers are Closed
- ETS Warehouse in Paramus NJ is closed, all paper based HiSET® scores in transit are secured; No score packages can be shipped. (Big impact on corrections).
- All Testing had stopped through April and May 2020.

# COVID 19 GED OP® and HiSET at Home®

Students, teachers, program directors, administrators are concerned, frustrated, angry.

State administrators are pressuring HSE vendors to devise a solution.

# COVID 19 GED OP® and HiSET at Home®

- GED® develops the GED OP®
- ETS develops the HiSET at Home®
- Massachusetts Worked with Vendors to develop check in protocols.

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## GED OP<sup>®</sup> HiSET at Home<sup>®</sup> Comparison

# GED OP / HiSET At Home Comparison

	<u><b>GED OP®</b></u>	<u><b>HiSET at Home®</b></u>
<b>Product Name</b>	On Line Proctoring GED Test (OP)	HiSET Exam at Home
<b>Proctor Vendor</b>	OnVue	ProctorU
<b>Price</b>	\$149 Battery (\$37.25 per test) (Same as their TC test -9/1)	\$141.25 Battery (\$28.25 per test) (\$17.25/retest)
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Must Score Green Category (145+) on GED Ready OPT	None
<b>Retest Policy</b>	After 2 non-passing attempts in a subject area test-takers must wait 60 days for each subsequent retest in that subject area (vs. 3 attempts TC)	Twice per calendar year. Jan-Dec (Same as TC)
<b>Minimum Age</b>	18 but 16 with approval from HSE Office- See: <a href="https://www.doe.mass.edu/hse/under18.html">https://www.doe.mass.edu/hse/under18.html</a>	18 but 16 with approval from HSE Office- See: <a href="https://www.doe.mass.edu/hse/under18.html">https://www.doe.mass.edu/hse/under18.html</a>
<b>Spanish Tests Available</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Special Accomodations</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Combine with previous scores</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Scratch Paper/Calculator</b>	Onscreen whiteboard & scratch pad available - practice using the Onscreen whiteboard here: <a href="https://home.pearsonvue.com/onvue/whiteboard">https://home.pearsonvue.com/onvue/whiteboard</a> <a href="#">Calculator TX SX 30 Drop Down</a>	Erasable white board or clear plastic sheet with erasable pen. <a href="#">Calculator 4 Function Drop Down</a>
<b>System Requirements</b>	Must be a desktop or laptop computer, not a tablet or mobile device  Windows 10 Windows 8.1 Mac OS 10.13 and above	Must be a desktop or laptop computer, not a tablet or mobile device  Must use Windows® operating system, versions 10, 8 or 7 Must use Mac® OS X 10.5 or higher (10.13 High Sierra is recommended) Must use Chrome™ or Firefox® browser



## Next Steps -

- Approved Test Sites will start to open as Massachusetts recovers from COVID.
- GED OP<sup>®</sup> and HiSET at Home<sup>®</sup> will continue.



# Which Test Should I Take?

## HiSET

- Language Arts-Reading (65 minutes) 50 multiple Choice Questions
- Language Arts-Writing (120 minutes) 61 Questions
  - 60 multiple-choice questions
  - 1 Essay

## GED

- Reasoning through Language Arts (150 minutes)  
(51 Questions) Section 1 — (27 minutes\*)
- Section 2 — Extended Response (45 minutes)
- Student Break (10 minutes)
- Section 3 — (60 minutes)
- \*The time allotted for Sections 1 and 3 may vary slightly, but the total test time will always be 150 minutes.

# Which Test Should I Take?

## HiSET

- Mathematics (90 minutes) 60 Multiple-Choice Questions
- Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator

## GED

- Mathematical Reasoning (115 minutes) (46 Questions) Part 1 (first 5 questions) calculator not allowed
- Part 2 (remaining 41 questions) calculator allowed
- Possible Item Types:
  - Multiple choice
  - Drag-and-drop
  - Hot spot
  - Fill in the blank
- Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator

# Which Test Should I Take?

## HiSET

- Social Studies (70 minutes) 60 Multiple-Choice Questions

## GED

- Social Studies (70 minutes) (35 questions) Possible Item Types:
  - Multiple choice
  - Drag-and-drop
  - Hot spot
  - Fill in the blank
- Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator

# Which Test Should I Take?

## HiSET

- Science (80 minutes) 50 multiple-choice questions.
- Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator.

## GED

- Science (90 minutes) (34 Questions) Possible Item Types:
  - Multiple choice
  - Short answer
  - Drag-and-drop
  - Hot spot
  - Fill in the blank.
- Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator.

# Which Test Should I Take?

- What assessment style suits you best.
  - Take both practice tests
  - Determine not on which assessment you scored higher but with which did you feel most comfortable ?



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# HSE College Ready – The Next Step

# HSE College Ready – The Next Step

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education amended their Common Assessment Policy to allow institutions of public higher education to use the following standards to place students directly into college-level, credit-bearing English and mathematics courses:

- 2.7 cumulative high school GPA for students who have graduated from high school within the past ten years to place directly into a college-level, credit-bearing English course;
- 2.7 cumulative high school GPA for students who have graduated from high school within the past three years to place directly into a college-level, credit-bearing mathematics course.

## HSE College Ready – The Next Step

We worked with 11 community colleges and MA Board of Higher Education to develop this recommendation.

Massachusetts DESE/ACLS recommends that community colleges place test completers with HSE College Ready score, (GED165+: HiSET 15+) directly into college-level, credit-bearing English and Mathematics courses.

In Massachusetts, 11 Community Colleges have adopted this recommendation in part or in whole.



# HSE College Ready – The Next Step

Berkshire Community College (GED® and HiSET®)

Bristol Community College (GED® and HiSET®)

Bunker Hill Community College (GED® and HiSET®)

Greenfield Community College (GED® and HiSET®)(English Only)

Holyoke Community College (GED® Math Only)

Mt. Wachusett Community College (GED®)

North Shore Community College (GED®)

Northern Essex Community College (GED® and HiSET®)

Quinsigamond Community College (GED® and HiSET® English Only)

Roxbury Community College (GED®)

Springfield Tech. Comm. College (GED® and HiSET®)

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# Adult Diploma Programs as an Option

## ADP Definition

The Adult Diploma Program (aka External Diploma Program or Alternative Diploma Program) is a High School Diploma.

The course of study must be approved by, and the diploma issued by, the local school district or private secondary school.

# ADP Definition

- Because the Adult Diploma is a High School Diploma, The Massachusetts Education Reform Law of 1993, state law, [MG.L. c. 69, § 1D](#), requires that all students attaining the ADP must meet the [Competency Determination \(CD\) standard](#), in addition to meeting all local graduation requirements.
- In other words, graduates must pass, or otherwise demonstrate the competencies by scoring proficient on Grade 10 MCAS or an approved portfolio.

# ADP/ HSE Comparison

## HSE

- Totally relies on assessment.
- Inflexible.
- 7 ½ hours of testing.
- Computer or Paper Based.
- Previous high school experience does not count.
- Must be at least 16 (Need letter of HS Withdrawal Age 16-17).
- Home School students are eligible
- Issued by the State

## Adult Diploma

- Generally, competency driven.
- Flexibility.
- May take Grade 10 MCAS or provide portfolio and can combine.
- Previous high school credits are applied.
- Recommend be at least 22. (For portfolio 18-22) otherwise Mass. MCAS Alt rules may apply if still enrolled.
- Home School Students may not be eligible.
- Issued by the District

# Curriculum Map

<b>TASK 1: Language and Fine Arts (6 Required )</b>		<b>Date Completed</b>
<b>Required</b>	LFA-01 Drama	
<b>Complete 1 of 3</b>	LFA-02 Visual Art LFA-03 Music LFA-04 Dance	
<b>Required</b>	LFA-05 Critique of a Live Performance	
<b>Required</b>	LFA-06 Fiction	
<b>Required</b>	LFA-07 Poetry	
<b>Required</b>	LFA-08 – Literary Non Fiction	
<b>Pass MCAS or do Both</b>	LFA 10 Original Narrative LFA 11 Literary Theme	
<b>Task 2 Financial Literacy (9 Required)</b>		<b>Date Completed</b>
<b>Complete 2 of 3</b>	FL-01 Daily Expenses FL-02 Monthly Budget Using Excel FL-03 Cutting Expenses & Increasing Income	
<b>Required</b>	FL-04 Large Expenses	
<b>Required</b>	FL-05 Earned Income Tax Credit	
<b>Required</b>	FL-06 Financial Institutions	
<b>Required</b>	FL-07 Credit	
<b>Complete 1 of 2</b>	FL-08 Buying or Renting FL-09 Choosing an Apartment	
<b>Required</b>	FL 10 - Leases	
<b>Required</b>	FL-11 Consumer Protection	
<b>Task 3: Science (9 Required )</b>		<b>Date Completed</b>
<b>Required</b>	S-01 Inputs and Outputs	
<b>Required</b>	S-02- Family Pedigree	
<b>Required</b>	S-03 Endangered Species	
<b>Required</b>	S-04 Natural Selection	
<b>Required</b>	S-05 Design Challenge	
<b>Required</b>	S-06 Pros and Cons of Solutions	
<b>Required</b>	S-07 Data Interpreting Skills	
<b>Required</b>	S-08 Applying a model	
<b>Required</b>	S-09 Outlining a Science Text	

# Curriculum Map

<b>Task 6 Math 3 Required</b>		<b>Date Completed</b>
<b>Required</b>	Basic Math /Number Sense	
<b>Required</b>	Algebra 1	
<b>Required</b>	Geometry	
<b>Elective</b>	Algebra 2 /College Math	

# Curriculum Map

<b>TASK 4: Social Studies (10 Required )</b>		<b>Date Completed</b>
<b>Required</b>	H-01 US Constitution	
<b>Complete 1 of 4</b>	H-02 Branches of Govt. Users Guide H-03 Interactive Timeline H-04 Presidential Vetoes H-05 Checks and Balances	
<b>Required</b>	H-06 Civil Engagement	
<b>Required</b>	H-07 Bill of Rights	
<b>Required</b>	H-08 Interpreting Maps	
<b>Required</b>	H-09 Historical Research	
<b>Required</b>	H-10 Research Paper	
<b>Required</b>	H-11 Global Interdependence	
<b>Required</b>	H-12 Economics	
<b>Required</b>	H-13 Evaluating Media	
<b>Task 5 College &amp; Career Readiness (9 Required)</b>		Date Completed
<b>Required</b>	CC-01 Career Inventory	
<b>Required</b>	CC-02 Future Career	
<b>Required</b>	CC-03 Career Timeline	
<b>Required</b>	CC-04 Job Search	
<b>Required</b>	CC-05 Resume and Cover Letter	
<b>Required</b>	CC-06 Mock Interview	
<b>Required</b>	CC-07 What is College?	
<b>Required</b>	CC-08 College Application	
<b>Required</b>	CC-09 The Accuplacer	
<b>State Requirements: MCAS (3 Required)</b>		Date Completed
<b>Complete 1 of 2</b>	ELA MCAS ELA MCAS Portfolio	
<b>Complete 1 of 2</b>	Math MCAS Math MCAS Portfolio	
<b>Complete 1 of 2</b>	Science MCAS Science MCAS Portfolio	



# ADP Models – MCAS Portfolio Basics - ELA

- Overview of the ELA Standards
  - 5 Written Work Samples
  - Guide the student to think independently
  - 3/5 require analysis, interpretation, comparison, or contrast
  - 2/5 connect theme to own life; student's own choice
  - Organization, sentence structure, grammar, mechanics count
  - Must be 75% independent

# ADP Models – MCAS Portfolio Basics - ELA

- Checklist for ELA Portfolios
  - Read works Grade 10 (or higher)
  - 3/5 require analysis, interpretation, comparison, or contrast
  - 2/5 connect theme to own life; creative/reflective/persuasive
  - Poetry – consider theme and elements that stand out
  - Document secondary sources properly in persuasive essays
  - 3 Drafts each showing noticeable improvement
  - Final drafts are evaluated for content and writing
  - Beware repetition/redundancies in 5 paragraph essays

# ADP Models – MCAS Portfolio Basics –Math

In General, for a competency determination in mathematics:

- 14 of the legacy 2011 mathematics standards must be addressed in the portfolio, and be at grade 10 level of complexity; [For now, soon to be revised to the 2017 standards]
- Each sample of work must be accompanied by a “work description”  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/filing/portfolio/wd-math.docx> ;
- Work must be both accurate and complete, meaning all aspects of a standard must be covered and work on all aspects must be at least 75% accurate;
- Work must have been done with at least a 75% level of independence;
- Overall, the work in the portfolio must be equivalent to a score of 220 or better on the MCAS test.

# ADP Models – MCAS Portfolio Basics –Math

- **For competency to be determined in mathematics:**
  - All required strands and standards [conceptual categories and clusters] must be addressed.
  - All aspects of each standard must be included in the student's work.
  - Up to three standards can be missed, but no two in the same strand.
    - Standards deemed sufficient in any review can carry over to successive reviews and "sufficient" standards do not have to be revisited by the student.
  - Portfolios can be resubmitted any number of times.

# ADP Models – MCAS Portfolio Basics –Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Genetics
- Evolution and Biodiversity
- Ecology

# ADP Models – MCAS Portfolio Basics –Science - Biology

- Compare and contrast, at the cellular level, the general structures and degrees of complexity of prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
- Use cellular evidence (e.g., cell structure, cell number, cell reproduction) and modes of nutrition to describe the six kingdoms (Archaeobacteria, Eubacteria, Protista, Fungi, Plantae, Animalia).
- Compare and contrast a virus and a cell in terms of genetic material and reproduction.



# Questions and Answers



# THANK YOU !

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