



Public Adult
Education of MA

LIVE TO LEARN

High School Equivalency Changes in MA

First Literacy – September 29, 2023

Public Adult Education of MA - Presented on First Literacy
Professional Development Workshop 9/29/23



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HSE State of the State



HSE State of the State

Overview of HSE Changes:

- **HiSET Purchased by PSI**
- **2022-2023 Policy Changes – Removing Barriers**
 - ✓ **Free GED and HiSET Testing in MA**
 - ✓ **Combining GED & HiSET Scores to Credential**
 - ✓ **Combining Spanish & English to Credential**
 - ✓ **All Credentials Issued in English**

HSE State of the State – PSI Transition

- HiSET was sold to PSI on October 1, 2021
 - Required a state rebid of HSE testing services
 - ETS and PSI went through a year of transition
- PSI started administering HiSET on October 1, 2022
 - Significant issues with the transition
 - Registration Issues
 - Paper Test Issues
 - File Transfer Errors (LACES and Diploma Sender)
- **HiSET® and GED® Remain HSE Tests for Massachusetts**



HSE State of the State – PSI Transition

IMPORTANT TO KNOW when registering for HiSET:

- Test takers need to create ***new usernames and passwords*** at www.hiset.org.
 - Enter old ETS ID number and email – enter “FORGOT PASSWORD”
 - If you forgot either contact Michael.A.Farma@mass.gov
- **DO NOT CREATE A NEW USER ACCOUNT**
 - Creates Duplicate account that may not merge
- Old ETS scores appear **AFTER** you have taken a PSI exam

HSE State of the State-FREE GED Testing

- **FREE Testing in MA**
 - **Effective September 8, 2022**, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pays for a candidate's first GED® test in each subject plus limited retakes (two retests per subject).
 - (1-855-694-4738)

First Time Testers

- If you are scheduling your GED® test at an Official GED® test center, or the Online Proctored test (GED OP®) enter promo code **MAFREEGED1** during checkout.
- Please note that the Official GED® Practice test is still required for GED OP® and the cost for these tests is paid by the test taker.

Re-Testers

- If you are taking the retest at an Official GED® test center, enter promo code **MARETAKE** during checkout.
- For GED® Online Proctored test (GED OP®) retakes, enter promo code **OPMARETAKE** during checkout.



HSE State of the State-FREE HiSET Testing

FREE Testing in MA

- **Effective February 6, 2023**, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pays for a candidate's first HiSET[®] test in each subject plus two retakes per subject.
- When scheduling your HiSET[®] test at an official test center or at home enter a promo code **MAHISET** during the checkout.



HSE State of the State

Combining GED[®] and HiSET[®] Scores



- **Effective November 23, 2022**, Massachusetts School Equivalency candidates will be able to combine GED[®] and HiSET[®] subtest scores to complete the requirements of their High School Equivalency Credential.

- Candidates may take subtests for either assessment in any order. Passing scores will remain the same, 145 minimum per subtest for GED[®] and a minimum score of 8 and an average of 8 for HiSET[®] (minimum 2 for the essay on HiSET[®] Writing).
- Candidates will continue to see their subtest scores on the respective assessment websites (www.GED.com/www.hiset.org) and their combined scores will be available when the student completes their testing and the transcript is generated at www.diplomasender.com.

HSE State of the State

Combining English and Spanish Credential

- Candidates may take any GED® or HiSET® subtest in English or Spanish. English and Spanish scores may be combined toward High School Equivalency credential attainment.
- **All credentials will be printed in English.** Transcripts will be printed in English and document test vendor (GED® or HiSET®) subtest taken, subtest score, subtest form, and subtest language.
- **Candidates who received a Spanish credential after 2001 may request a credential in English by contacting the DESE/ACLS HSE team in writing at HSET@mass.gov.**



HSE State of the State

Other Updates:

- Under 18
 - [Under-18 Special Requirements - High School Equivalency \(HSE\) Testing Program \(mass.edu\)](#)
 - Send withdrawal letters to HSET@mass.gov – **NO direct emails to Olympia or Mike**
 - Not using HSET mailbox may result in delays





one more ^{test} to go

Do I have one more test to go? **YES!**

Can test in Spanish? **YES!**

Can I mix GED & HiSET test scores?
YES!

Did you test in 2014 to 2019? **YES!**

Is the last test free? **YES!**

Contact: HSET@mass.gov



HSE Volume 2022 – Massachusetts Scored Appointments

	GED Unique Candidates	ETS Unique Candidates	Total Unique Candidates	ETS CBT	ETS PBT	ETS English	ETS Spanish	ETS Scored Appointments	PSI Scored Appointments	GED Scored Appointments	Total Scored Appointments
Test Centers	3100	2921	6021	4165	730	4325	570	4895	1251	2838	8984
Corrections	9	919	928	232	1273	1473	32	1505	469	24	1998
At Home	464	1485	1949	2579	0	2527	52	2579	824	1789	5192
Total	3573	5325	8898	6976	2003	8325	654	8979	2544	4651	16174
								Total HiSET	11523	GED SP =292	

Adult Diploma Program

Adult Diploma Program (ADP)

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 the local school district or private secondary school which also issues the Diploma.



Adult Diploma (ADP)

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.

Comparison – GED, HiSET, ADP

High School Equivalency

The HSE Credential is earned by demonstrating:

- Competencies by means of earning a passing score,
- In a series of timed assessments,
- In courses of study determined to be required by most US (and international) secondary institutions.

Because the assessments (GED and HiSET)* do not meet the standards required in [MG.L. c. 69, § 1D](#), it can not be called a diploma.

*Although they are aligned with the CCRSAE

ADP/ HSE Comparison

HSE

- Totally relies on assessment.
- Must take all subtests (can combine GED® & HiSET®; English& Spanish).
- 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).
- Only option for Home School students
- Issued by the State

Adult Diploma

- Competency driven.
- Flexibility:
 - May take Grade 10 MCAS or provide portfolio and can combine.
 - Previous high school credits are applied.
- DESE recommends students to be at least 22 (for portfolio 18-22) otherwise Mass. MCAS Alt rules may apply if still enrolled.
- Home School Students are not eligible.
- Issued by the District

High School Equivalency -GED



- GED RLA - Reading
 - **Seventy-five percent of the texts in the exam are informational texts** (including nonfiction drawn from the science and the social studies as well as a range of texts from workplace contexts); 25 percent are literature.
 - The texts included in the test cover a range of text complexity, including texts at the career and college readiness level.
 - For texts in which comprehension hinges on vocabulary, the focus is on understanding words that appear frequently in texts from a wide variety of disciplines and, by their definition, are not unique to a particular discipline.
 - **U.S. founding documents and the “the Great American Conversation” that followed are required texts for study and assessment.**
 - The length of the texts included in the reading comprehension component of the test vary between **450 and 900** words.

High School Equivalency - GED

GED RLA – Writing

- Draw relevant and sufficient evidence from a literary or information text to support analysis and reflection.
- Use technology to produce writing, demonstrating sufficient command of keyboarding skills.
- Candidate responses are scored by a multi-trait rubric that focuses on three elements:
 - Trait 1: Analysis of arguments (**plural**) and use of evidence.
 - Trait 2: Development of ideas and structure.
 - Trait 3: Clarity and command of standard English.



High School Equivalency HiSET Reading



- Application of concepts, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation involving:
 - Literary Texts (40%)
 - Informational Texts (60%)
- In the ETS HiSET program, candidates will be required to read a broad range of high-quality literary and informational texts. The selections are presented in multiple genres on subject matter that varies in purpose and style. The selections will span various forms (e.g., narratives, memoirs, essays, biographical sketches, editorials, and poetry). The texts generally range in length from approximately **400 to 600 words**.

High School Equivalency – HiSET Writing

- Organization of Ideas (22%).
- Language Facility (43%).
- Writing Conventions (35%).
- The multiple-choice questions require candidates to make revision choices concerning organization, diction, and clarity, sentence structure, usage, and mechanics.
- The essay question measures proficiency in the generation and organization of ideas through a direct assessment of evidence-based writing. Candidates read a pair of texts and then create written responses. Responses are evaluated on the candidates' abilities to develop positions or claims supported by evidence from the materials provided *as well as their own experiences.*





Adult Diploma (ADP) -ELA

Checklist for ELA ADP CD Portfolios

The ELA competency portfolio must include at least:

- Two (2) short responses (one based on Reading-Literary and one based on Reading-Informational text), plus
- Four (4) essays (one in each of three writing types and one in student's choice of writing type), for a total of at least six (6) writing samples based on grade 10 texts.
- Multiple drafts with edits and revisions applied by the student.
- One completed ELA work description attached to each writing sample.

High School Equivalency – HiSET/GED Math

HiSET

- Mathematics
 - Numbers and Operations on Numbers (19%).
 - Measurement/Geometry (18%).
 - Data Analysis/Probability/Statistics (18%).
 - Algebraic Concepts (45%).
 - The Mathematics test is calculator neutral.
 - The formulas below will not be provided on the formula sheet: (Handout Reference Sheet)
 - **Distance = (rate) (time) or $d = rt$; note d is distance, r is rate, and t is time.**
 - **Pythagorean theorem: $a^2+b^2=c^2$ Note: c is the longest side of the triangle; a and b are the other.**
- **Quadratic formula:** $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ where $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ and $a \neq 0$

GED

- Mathematical Reasoning
 - Quantitative problem solving (45%).
 - Algebraic problem solving (55%).
 - The test includes items that test procedural skill and fluency as well as problem solving.
 - The contexts within which problem solving skills are measured were taken from both academic and workforce contexts.
- (Handout Reference Sheet)

HiSET

Formula Sheet

Perimeter / Circumference

Rectangle

$$\text{Perimeter} = 2(\text{length}) + 2(\text{width})$$

Circle

$$\text{Circumference} = 2\pi(\text{radius})$$

Area

Circle

$$\text{Area} = \pi(\text{radius})^2$$

Triangle

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2}(\text{base})(\text{height})$$

Parallelogram

$$\text{Area} = (\text{base})(\text{height})$$

Trapezoid

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2}(\text{base}_1 + \text{base}_2)(\text{height})$$

Volume

Prism/Cylinder

$$\text{Volume} = (\text{area of the base})(\text{height})$$

Pyramid/Cone

$$\text{Volume} = \frac{1}{3}(\text{area of the base})(\text{height})$$

Sphere

$$\text{Volume} = \frac{4}{3}\pi(\text{radius})^3$$

Length

1 foot = 12 inches

1 yard = 3 feet

1 mile = 5,280 feet

1 meter = 1,000 millimeters

1 meter = 100 centimeters

1 kilometer = 1,000 meters

1 mile \approx 1.6 kilometers

1 inch = 2.54 centimeters

1 foot \approx 0.3 meter

Capacity / Volume

1 cup = 8 fluid ounces

1 pint = 2 cups

1 quart = 2 pints

1 gallon = 4 quarts

1 gallon = 231 cubic inches

1 liter = 1,000 milliliters

1 liter \approx 0.264 gallon

Weight

1 pound = 16 ounces

1 ton = 2,000 pounds

1 gram = 1,000 milligrams

1 kilogram = 1,000 grams

1 kilogram \approx 2.2 pounds

1 ounce \approx 28.3 grams

[HiSET Downloadable Resources | HiSET](#)

GED

Mathematics Formula Sheet

Area of a:

square	$A = s^2$
rectangle	$A = lw$
parallelogram	$A = bh$
triangle	$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$
trapezoid	$A = \frac{1}{2}h(b_1 + b_2)$
circle	$A = \pi r^2$

Perimeter of a:

square	$P = 4s$
rectangle	$P = 2l + 2w$
triangle	$P = s_1 + s_2 + s_3$
Circumference of a circle	$C = 2\pi r$ OR $C = \pi d$; $\pi \approx 3.14$

Surface area and volume of a:

rectangular/right prism	$SA = ph + 2B$	$V = Bh$
cylinder	$SA = 2\pi rh + 2\pi r^2$	$V = \pi r^2 h$
pyramid	$SA = \frac{1}{2}ps + B$	$V = \frac{1}{3}Bh$
cone	$SA = \pi rs + \pi r^2$	$V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$
sphere	$SA = 4\pi r^2$	$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

(p = perimeter of base with area B ; $\pi \approx 3.14$)

Data

mean	mean is equal to the total of the values of a data set, divided by the number of elements in the data set
median	median is the middle value in an odd number of ordered values of a data set, or the mean of the two middle values in an even number of ordered values in a data set

Algebra

slope of a line	$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$
slope-intercept form of the equation of a line	$y = mx + b$
point-slope form of the equation of a line	$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$
standard form of a quadratic equation	$y = ax^2 + bx + c$
quadratic formula	$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
Pythagorean theorem	$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
simple interest	$I = Prt$ (I = interest, P = principal, r = rate, t = time)
distance formula	$d = rt$
total cost	total cost = (number of units) \times (price per unit)

[Free GED Sample Test Online for Adults | GED®](#)

Adult Diploma (ADP) Math

In general, for a competency determination in mathematics, evidence submitted in the mathematics competency portfolio must include:

- A minimum of four examples or problems solved correctly by the student for each aspect of the selected cluster or group of clusters listed below.
 - Number and Quantity/Algebra/Functions/Geometry/Statistics & Probability
- Evidence of the student's thinking and problem solving (i.e., all student work is shown that leads to the solution)
- An overall score that exceeds 75% accuracy and 75% independence, with incorrect answers and corrections marked
- Work corrected by the teacher may not be submitted as the student's own work.

High School Equivalency HiSET/GED Science

HiSET

- Science
 - Life Science (49%).
 - Physical Science (28%).
 - Earth Science (23%).
- Most of the questions in the test are associated with stimulus materials that provide descriptions of scientific investigations and their results.
- The questions may ask candidates to identify the research question of interest, select the best design for a specific research question, and recognize conclusions that can be drawn from results.

GED

- Science
 - Life Science (40%).
 - Physical Science (40%).
 - Earth and Space Science (20%).
- The test includes items that test textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, as well as problem solving with science content.
- Approximately 50 percent of the items are presented in item scenarios, in which a single stimulus (which may be textual, graphic or a combination of both) serves to inform two to three items. The rest of the items are discrete.

Adult Diploma Program (ADP) – Science

- 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.



High School Equivalency HiSET/GED Social Studies

HiSET

Social Studies

- History (35%).
 - Civics/Government (35%).
 - Economics (20%).
 - Geography (10%).
-
- Primary documents, posters, cartoons, timelines, maps, graphs, tables, charts, and reading passages may be used to present information. The questions may ask candidates to distinguish statements of fact from opinion; recognize the limitations of procedures and methods; and make judgments about the reliability of sources, the validity of inferences and conclusions, and the adequacy of information for drawing conclusions.

GED

Social Studies

- Civics and Government (50%).
- United States History (20%).
- Economics, (15%).
- Geography and the World(15%).

The test includes items that assess textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, and problem solving using social studies content.

Problem-solving skills are measured in both academic and workplace contexts.


Approximately 50 percent of the test items are based on scenarios in which a single stimulus (textual, graphic or a combination of both) serves to inform two or three items; the remaining approximately 50 percent of the items are discrete stand-alone items.

STANDARDS

High School Equivalency HiSET/GED Standards

- [Video Training for Authttps://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/Performance Level Descriptors Chart .pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/Performance_Level_Descriptors_Chart.pdf)
[horized Test Centers \(ged.com\)](https://ged.com)
- [HiSET Test at a Glance \(TAAG\) Information Brief](#)

Discussion



Discussion - Breakout Room Activity

How do you learn about your students and use that information to engage them in the learning process that allows you to better embed the standards into the learning in a contextualized manner?

- ✓ 20 minutes in the breakout room
- ✓ Choose a facilitator and a person to report back
- ✓ 15 minutes in large group – report back/discussion

HSE College Ready

HSE College Ready

HSE Score levels were created to help move students more quickly into and through college certificate and degree programs.

GED Students who score 165–174 (on any test subject) should qualify for waivers from developmental education course and from applicable placement testing. These scores are equivalent to the top 9–27% of the national average of graduating high school seniors.

Students who score 15–20 on the HiSET® Exam have demonstrated student readiness to enter credit-bearing classes. These scores should qualify students for waivers from developmental education course and from applicable placement testing. A recent ETS study demonstrated that High School students with a GPA of less than 2.7 were not likely to pass this exam.

HSE College Ready

- **Berkshire Community College**
1350 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 02101
(413) 499-4660 (GED® and HiSET®)
- **Bristol Community College**
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720
(774) 357-2811 (GED® and HiSET®)
- **Bunker Hill Community College**
250 New Rutheford Avenue
Charlestown, MA 02129
(617) 228-2000 (GED® and HiSET®)
- **Greenfield Community College**
One College Drive
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 775-1000 (GED® and HiSET® (English Only for HiSET®))
- **Holyoke Community College**
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 552-2292 (GED® Math Only)
- **Mt. Wachusett Community College**
444 Green Street
Gardner, MA 01440
(978) 630-9173 (GED®)
- **North Shore Community College**
300 Broad St
Lynn, MA 01901
(978) 739-5423 (GED®)
- **Northern Essex Community College**
100 Elliot Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
(978) 556-3872 (GED® and HiSET®)
- **Quinsigamond Community College**
670 West Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606
(508) 854-4407 (GED® and HiSET® English Only)
- **Roxbury Community College**
1234 Columbus Ave
Roxbury, MA 02120
(617) 427-0060 (GED® and HiSET®)
- **Springfield Tech. Comm. College**
One Armory Square, Bldg. 19
Springfield, MA 01105
(413) 755-4507 (GED® and HiSET®)



Questions?



[#] | [INSERT PRESENTATION TITLE]

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Thank you!

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Public Adult
Education of MA

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dese Adult and Community
Learning Services

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Professional Development Workshop 9/29/23