

Mujeres Unidas Avanzando, Dorchester

*¡Sí, Se Puede! (Yes, You Can!) Passing that Last
HiSET Exam*

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MUA

Purpose

- Support HiSET students who passed 4 of 5 exams
- Give them the extra push to finish their last test
- Provide motivation, guidance, and individualized instruction to help them earn their credential

Inspiration/Similar Models

- GED data regarding the “3 of 4 Dilemma” — 150,000+ test-takers nationwide stop before their final test —> mirrored what we were observing
- MA’s “One More to Go” initiative (limited Spanish HSE support so far)
- GED “Boot Camps”
- Maryland’s “4th & Goal” initiative

What We Designed

- Weekly “Sí, Se Puede” (“Yes, You Can”) class
- Recruited MUA students from the past decade with one test left
- Small-group and 1-on-1 targeted instruction
- Focus on test skills, study habits, test anxiety, peer support, and goal setting

What Made It Different

- Fewer program barriers/enrollment requirements
- Stronger focus on the test itself
- Small-group and individualized approach
- Split by subject, with schedule flexibility and 1-on-1 time

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The Students

- Identified through teacher memory and state database (LACES)
- Found 12 students missing their last exam → 8 re-enrolled
- Mix of recent enrollments and pre-COVID students
- Many unaware of MUA adding online and night classes; free HSE exams in MA; excited to re-engage
- 3 missing math, 4 reading, 1 short on points (nationally: ~80% missing math)



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The Results

- 3 of 8 passed their final exam 🎉 (2 started in 2015, 1 in 2020)
- 7 of 8 stayed engaged all year
- Of the 4 who didn't pass: 3 attempted exams in spring; didn't pass but returned this fall, ready to keep going

Future Goals

- Not continuing as a standalone class, but integrating lessons learned into all HSE classes
- Keep supporting students missing one test; maintain flexible scheduling options
- Use volunteers and student advisors for added help
- Include student feedback in developing class plans



MUA Resources

<https://www.ged.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Solving-the-3-of-4-Dilemma-%E2%80%93-Reengaging-Students-Who-Are-One-Test-Away-From-Earning-a-GED-Credential.pdf>

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/hse/one-more.html>

<https://labor.maryland.gov/adultliteracy/ae4thgoal.shtml>

<https://www.proliteracy.org/news/programs-ged-math-bootcamp-positions-students-to-pass/>