



GED® TESTING: OPENING DOORS TO A BETTER FUTURE

63

Percentage of GED® test-takers who aspire to attend college or a career training program.

\$403,000

Average additional amount an adult with a high school credential earns over an adult without a credential during the course of his or her lifetime.

DAVE THOMAS

Founder of Wendy's and one of many famous GED® graduates.

In the United States today, almost 1 in 5 adults—more than 39 million individuals—lacks a high school credential. The GED® test, established in 1942, has helped 18 million adults receive their high school credential, attend college, secure better-paying jobs, support their families, and realize their dreams for a better life. The GED® testing program:

- Serves as the only nationally recognized high school equivalency program.
- Certifies attainment of high school-level academic knowledge and skills.
- Covers five content areas: Language Arts, Reading; Language Arts, Writing; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies.
- Requires just over 7 hours to complete the entire GED® test battery.
- Sets a rigorous standard that only 60% of graduating high school seniors would pass on the first attempt.
- Requires a combined total score of 2250 and at least 410 on each content area to pass.

As a country, we must find new ways to serve more adult learners by providing them with better educational and economic opportunities. The GED® 21st Century Initiative is an important first step in increasing adult educational opportunities and preparing adults for success in the future.

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT LEARNERS: THE GED® 21ST CENTURY INITIATIVE

Through the GED® 21st Century Initiative, the new GED Testing Service® and its partners are responding to the needs of millions of adult learners who must achieve real progress to realize their education and career aspirations. Three closely linked components make up this bold initiative:

PREPARE: Nationally accessible preparation programs.

PERFORM: A test to certify high school equivalence and career- and college-readiness.

PROGRESS: A transition network to college, training, and careers.




Average number of years between dropping out and taking the GED® test.



Percentage of U.S. jobs requiring a postsecondary education in 2018.



Colleges that accept applications from adults who passed the GED® test as equivalent to high school graduates.

PREPARE

Preparation currently occurs at home for 54% of GED® test-takers, and those who seek out help may use programs on television or online, in community colleges, or at local libraries. Adult education and GED® testing programs are not federally administered programs. Nonprofit organizations and state entities run most programs.

GED Testing Service® and the American Council on Education are developing tools to help adults at all skill levels increase their knowledge and preparedness for the GED® test—and to help more adults pass the test successfully. This includes:

- Diagnostic pre-assessment.
- Customized curriculum and differentiated instruction.
- Diagnostic post-assessment.
- GED® test-readiness assessment.

PERFORM

The GED® test was developed in 1942 to help World War II veterans transition back into civilian life and qualify for college and jobs. Today's adult learners must be prepared to pass the GED® test and to compete nationwide for jobs and careers.

In addition to certifying high school-level skills and knowledge, the new GED® test will certify that an adult is ready for college and certain careers. The new test is:

- Aligned with the Common Core State Standards.
- Delivered through computer-based testing requiring basic computer skills.
- Designed to demonstrate career- and college-readiness.

PROGRESS

Today, adults who pass the GED® test can apply for the same college programs and employment opportunities as high school graduates. In a study of GED® graduates from the 2003 cohort, more than 17,000 adults had successfully graduated from a college or career training program, earning a degree or certificate in their desired field of study.

GED Testing Service® is working with partners across nonprofit, public, and private sectors to help more adults make a successful transition to college, training, and careers. The goal is to:

- Connect to pathways for career and college opportunities.
- Provide tools for adults to receive information, counseling, or other supports to enroll.
- Help adults attain college degrees or career certification.

LEARN MORE AT

www.GEDTestingService.com

Join us in helping more adults prepare for, perform on, and progress beyond the GED® test.