



High School Equivalency Testing:

GED® and HiSET®

Office of Postsecondary &
Workforce Readiness

The Colorado State Board of Education approves the high school equivalency (HSE) examinations utilized in Colorado to measure major outcomes and concepts associated with high school education.

There are two state board-approved HSE examinations in Colorado: GED® and HiSET®. The Colorado High School Equivalency Diploma is awarded for successful completion of one of these approved examinations.

The cost of each content area test as described below includes a \$7.50 state admin fee, \$10 test center fee, and the remainder goes to the test publisher.

Note: The Department of Education stopped contracting with TASC in 2020. However, any credentials earned through TASC are still valid and recognized.

GED®: GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

History: The GED® program began in 1942 and has been an approved test in Colorado since the 1960s.

Overview: The GED® is administered on a computer at approved testing centers or online at home. It consists of four (4) content area tests. The GED® is published by GED Testing Service® (GEDTS).

Content Area Tests: Reasoning through Language Arts (RLA), Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies

Minimum Passing Score: 145 (out of 200) in each content area

Cost: At a testing center or online at home: \$43.50 per content area test = \$174 for the complete exam

Test Outcomes:

2023-24 Colorado Pass Rate: 81%

National Pass Rate: 75%

Individual Content Area Colorado Pass Rates:

Reasoning through Language Arts: 89%

Math: 80%

Science: 92%

Social Studies: 89%

Approved Testing Centers:

- HSE exams can only be administered at testing centers approved by the Colorado Department of Education.
- CDE approves testing centers based on geographic location and testing volume in the region.
- Schools and school districts may be approved to administer HSE exams to eligible students.
- Approved testing centers:
 - Can choose to administer only one or both exams.
 - Can choose to administer exams via computer, paper, or both (GED® is computer-only).
 - Must also meet the requirements of the publisher of each exam administered at their site.



HiSET®: HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST

History: The HiSET® test emerged in 2014 in response to the GED® test removing its paper test option in favor of computer-based testing only. The HiSET® test has been an approved test in Colorado since 2016.

Overview: The HiSET® is administered on computer and paper at approved testing centers or online at home (computer-only). It consists of five (5) content area tests. The HiSET® is published by PSI Services®.

Content Area Tests: Language Arts: Reading, Language Arts: Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

Minimum Passing Score: 8 (out of 20) in each content area, 2 (out of 6) on the essay, AND a total combined score of at least 45 (out of 100) across all 5 subtests

Cost: Computer and paper versions at testing centers: \$32.50 per content area test = \$162.50 for the complete exam. HiSET Exam at Home: \$40 per content area test = \$200 for the complete exam.

Test Outcomes:

2023-24 Colorado Pass Rate: 84%

National Pass Rate: 75%

Individual Content Area Colorado Pass Rates:

Reading: 80%

Writing: 88%

Math: 79%

Science: 91%

Social Studies: 84%

Where can I learn more?

- GED website: www.ged.com
- HiSET website: www.hiset.org
- Office of Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness, High School Equivalency Testing: www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/hse