



NEWS RELEASE:

GED® Testing Service (www.GEDtest.org)

A Program of the American Council on Education (www.acenet.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, August 4, 2008**

CONTACT:

Chris "CT" Turner

(202) 939-9720

chris_turner@ace.nche.edu

**GED TESTING SEES ITS HIGHEST TEST-TAKER INCREASE IN SEVEN
YEARS, NEW REPORT FINDS**

Washington, D.C. (August 4, 2008) — GED Testing Service™ today announced that the number of adults who took the GED Tests in 2007 rose to nearly 729,000, and almost a half million adults passed the test battery during the same period. According to the *2007 GED® Testing Program Statistical Report*, this is the highest annual number of adults who have tested and the highest number who passed the test battery since 2001. Just over 714,000 adults tested in 2006, for an increase of almost 15,000.

"We applaud the more than 451,000 adults who passed the GED Tests in 2007," said Sylvia E. Robinson, American Council on Education assistant vice president and executive director of the GED Testing Service. "This report demonstrates real progress in our efforts to serve more adults who do not have a traditional high school diploma and to increase the opportunities for adults to enter into the national work force through continuing education."

ACE President Molly Corbett Broad, added, "Inasmuch as knowledge-based jobs have become the cornerstone of the U.S. economy, the need for an educated work force cannot be overstated. It is projected that 90 percent of the fastest growing occupations through the year 2014 will require postsecondary education. The American Council on Education is proud that its GED testing program can provide a powerful second chance for individuals who are without a high school credential."

U.S. programs that significantly increased the amount of adult testers in 2007 were Indiana, Mississippi, Connecticut, Nevada and Florida. Each state reported at least a 10 percent increase. Additionally, 10 states reported an above-average passing rate of 85 percent or higher in 2007: Iowa, Delaware, Kansas, Vermont, Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Maine, North Carolina and Oregon.

More

Administrators in these states credit flexible program schedules and test preparation materials such as free practice tests, one-on-one preparation and the Official GED Practice Test (OPT) as the essential tools for facilitating higher pass rates.

“Association with the Adult Education Program in North Carolina's Community College System has significantly improved our pass rates in our GED testing program,” stated Lou Ann Parker, North Carolina GED administrator. “By offering classes Monday through Sunday, in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings at each of our 58 community colleges throughout the state, we can meet the needs of candidates with different schedules. We also require the student to take and pass the OPT before attempting the GED Tests.”

Executive Director Robinson added, “Even with the increase in testing numbers and pass rates, there are still many challenges ahead as we move forward with the goals of our FY2010 strategic plan, which include working to increase the number of adults who earn their GED credentials.”

The 2000 U.S. Census data indicates that more than 30 million adults—more than 16 percent—of the U.S. population are without a high school credential. A separate report produced by Education Week estimated that more than 1 million students would fail to graduate high school in the 2006-07 school year.

The *2007 GED® Testing Program Statistical Report* is available as a complimentary PDF download at www.GEDtest.org and is also available for \$25.00 per copy plus shipping and handling from the ACE Fulfillment Service at (301) 632-6757. Orders can also be placed on the ACE web site at www.acenet.edu/bookstore.

About GED Testing Service

The General Educational Development Testing Service™ (GEDTS) is a program of the American Council on Education (ACE) which develops, delivers, and safeguards the GED Tests, setting the policy for and ensuring compliance of GED test battery administration. GED testing is administered by each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Canadian provinces and territories, the U.S. insular areas, U.S. military and federal correctional institutions. Each jurisdiction manages its own GED testing program.

About ACE

Founded in 1918, ACE is the major coordinating body for all the nation's higher education institutions, representing more than 1,600 college and university presidents, and more than 200 related associations, nationwide. It seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues and influence public policy through advocacy, research, and program initiatives.

#

Frequently Asked Questions about GED testing

What does “GED” stand for?

GED – A trademarked acronym used for the General Educational Development Tests, a battery of examinations administered by states and jurisdictions to measure the skills and knowledge similar to a high school course of study. GED graduates earn a GED credential. The type of credential issued, diploma or certificate, varies by state.

When and why did GED® testing begin?

At the request of the military, the GED Tests were first developed in 1942 to help returning World War II veterans finish their high school studies and reenter civilian life. The GED Tests first became available to civilians in 1947 when the state of New York implemented a program to award its high school diploma to those who passed.

What are the GED Tests?

The Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests) are designed to measure the skills and knowledge equivalent to a high school course of study. The five subject area tests which comprise the GED test battery are Mathematics; Language Arts, Reading; Language Arts, Writing (including essay); Science; and Social Studies.

Who produces the GED Tests?

The GED Tests are developed, delivered, and safeguarded by content specialists, researchers, psychometricians, and other staff of the General Educational Development Testing Service™ (GEDTS), a nonprofit program of the American Council on Education®. The tests are owned by ACE.

How does the GED testing program work?

The GED testing program is an international partnership involving the GED Testing Service, each of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, the Canadian provinces and territories, the U.S. insular areas, the U.S. military and federal correctional institutions, and the veterans administration hospitals.

GEDTS establishes the test administration procedures and passing standard. All jurisdictions administer the GED Tests and award their high school credentials to adults who meet the GED Tests passing standards and any other additional jurisdictional requirements.

How many people take the GED Tests?

In 2007, more than 728,000 adults worldwide took some portion of the GED test battery. Of that total, more than 614,000 (86%) completed the battery of five tests and 451,000 earned passing scores on the five-test battery.

What does it mean to “pass” the GED Tests?

In order to pass the GED Tests, an examinee must have a combined passing score of 2250; in addition, each individual subject area test score must be 410 or greater. Those passing the GED Tests have demonstrated a level of knowledge equal to or greater than 40% of graduating high school seniors.

What should I tell someone who’s interested in GED testing?

2007 GED Testing Program Statistical Report

Please direct GED test-takers to our website at www.GEDtest.org or to the GED hotline at 800-626-9433.