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NOV. 1, 2011

GED TESTING SERVICE RELEASES ENHANCED BRAILLE VERSION

WASHINGTON, DC—GED Testing Service is excited to announce a revised version of the GED test that offers vision-impaired adults who read Braille a better testing experience. The enhanced English Braille version increases access to diagrams and charts, including raised tactile graphics, to represent many of the images test-takers use to answer questions.

"A description can be adequate at times, but for many students, 'seeing' the diagrams hands-on can make the process much smoother," said Kathleen McGillivray, consultant on the project and director of disability services at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn.

GED Testing Service worked in partnership with Ms. McGillivray and Minnesota's Volunteer Braille Services to create a revised version of the GED tests. This version uses the most recent updates to the Braille code and reflects current best practices in production of Braille documents, especially in the areas of math and science.

McGillivray said, "It's critical for blind students to access the same information as their sighted peers, whenever possible." With this newer version of the Braille exam, blind students will be able to more independently answer the exam questions and do so in a manner representative of the textbooks currently being used in schools.

"We are pleased to release this new edition of the GED test, as it is one more example of our efforts to continually enhance the paper-based testing experience for all adult learners," said Martha Bozman, director of operations for paper-based testing at GED Testing Service.

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Braille test ordering information for GED testing professionals: Order placed through GED AccessPoint for English Braille tests for 2012 will automatically receive the new test. You are allowed to use the battery both in 2011 and 2012 as long as the total number of tests administered using a single battery does not exceed 15.

If you haven't placed any order for English Braille tests for 2012, but need to use the new test in 2011, please place an order the battery through GED AccessPoint. Make sure to select contract year as 2012 (next year). You are allowed to use the battery both in 2011 and 2012, as long as the total number of tests administered using a single battery does not exceed 15.

If the battery is needed earlier than the planned shipping of 2012 test materials to your jurisdiction, please contact Kati Niemi (kniemi@acenet.edu 202-621-1622) after placing the online order.