The General Educational Development (GED®) Testing Program

I. Purpose of the GED® Test

The General Educational Development (GED®) program is designed for individuals who once were enrolled in school but, for various reasons, did not complete the requirements for high school graduation. This program provides an opportunity for recognition of the educational development of these individuals since they withdrew from school.

II. Uses and Characteristics of the GED® Test

By achieving satisfactory scores on the GED® Test, adults will earn a General Educational Development Certificate; qualify for admission to college or to more advanced educational opportunities; meet educational requirements for employment or promotion in a job; satisfy educational requirements for induction into the United States Armed Forces; and meet regulations of state and local boards of licensing examiners for admission to licensing examinations for those occupations requiring educational competence at the twelfth-grade level.

The GED® Test is a battery of four comprehensive examinations in mathematical reasoning, reasoning through language arts, social studies, and science. The test is designed to measure, as directly as possible, the major generalizations, ideas, and intellectual skills that are acquired during four years of high school. Emphasis is placed on intellectual power rather than on detailed content, and on the ability to comprehend exactly, to evaluate critically, and to think clearly in terms of concepts and ideas. Examinees are allowed seven hours and five minutes to complete the battery of four tests which are: mathematical reasoning (115 minutes); reasoning through language arts (150 minutes); social studies (70 minutes); and science (90 minutes).

III. GED® Testing Eligibility

A. Certificates will be issued to adults who are no longer enrolled in regular high school programs and who meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and not currently enrolled in public education or otherwise meeting the school attendance requirements.

2. Under special circumstances the age limit may be lowered to 16 years of age for applicants:
a. Who have been instructed by their parents in their home and who have successfully completed such home school instruction; or

b. Who have been excused from school attendance; or

c. For whom an Individual Student Alternative Education Plan (ISAEP) has been granted; or

d. Who are housed in adult correctional facilities and who are actively pursuing a GED® certificate but who have not been granted an ISAEP; or

e. Who have been expelled from school; or

f. Who are required by court order to participate in the GED® testing program.

B. Under no circumstances is an individual under the age of 16 eligible for testing.

C. A summary of the rules for underage eligibility in categories a-f above follows:

1. Home Schooled
   Applicants under 18 years of age, but at least 16 years of age, must provide the GED® examiner with documentation signed by the Superintendent of Schools (or designee) certifying that the applicant has completed a home instruction program.

2. Released from Compulsory Attendance
   Applicants under 18 years of age, but at least 16 years of age, must provide the GED® examiner with documentation signed by the Superintendent of Schools (or designee) certifying that the applicant has been released from compulsory attendance by the local school board. Emancipated and adjudicated minors are subject to the compulsory attendance law, unless released by the local school board.

3. Alternative Education
   Students for whom an ISAEP has been granted may take the GED® Test when the Superintendent of Schools (or designee) provides the GED® examiner with the completed GED® Options for Selected Students Enrolled in Secondary Schools GED® Testing Authorization Form. ISAEP students must achieve a minimum score of 450 on each of the 2002 subtests of the Official GED® Practice Test or a score of 150 on the 2014 subtests of the Official GED Practice Test before this form may be submitted.
4. Adult Correctional Facility  
Applicants under 18 years of age, but at least 16 years of age, must provide the GED® examiner with documentation signed by the Department of Correctional Education that the individual is actively pursuing a GED® certificate.

5. Expelled from School  
Applicants under 18 years of age, but at least 16 years of age, must provide documentation signed by the Superintendent of Schools (or designee) certifying that the applicant has been expelled from school.

6. Court Ordered  
Applicants under 18 years of age, but at least 16 years of age, must provide documentation signed by the judge ordering the applicant to participate in the GED® testing program.

D. High school credit is not required to take the GED® test.

E. Residence: GED® testing candidates are not required to be Virginia residents. However, applicants testing in Virginia must present documentation of their current residence, whether in Virginia or another location.

F. Application: An individual must make application prior to testing and provide photograph-bearing identification as defined by the GED® Testing Service at the time of testing.

G. The passing score for the GED® Test is 145 per subject area test. There are three scoring levels on the test. The scoring levels are:

1. Pass/high school equivalency (awards Virginia’s GED® credential): 145–164
2. GED® College Ready (readiness to enter credit-bearing college courses): 165–174
3. GED® College Ready + Credit (qualifies for up to 10 hours of college credit): 175–200

H. Credit for Out-of-State Test Scores: Test scores will be accepted for an official GED® Test administered by an official GED® center outside of Virginia provided the requirements established by the Commonwealth of Virginia for the issuance of a certificate have been fulfilled.
I. Retesting: Test takers can take their first three attempts per subtest without wait time restrictions. Subsequent attempts are subject to a 60-day waiting period between attempts. There is no limit to the number of attempts per year. The total number of attempts depends on when a test taker schedules the subsequent subtests.

IV. Registration Procedures to Take the GED® Test

Testing candidates can register online by visiting www.ged.com, by calling the GED® Testing Service call center at 1.877.392.6433, or by contacting a local Pearson VUE Testing Center.

V. Test Fee and Other Requirements

All applicants approved by school officials are required to pay a fee to take the entire battery of four tests. A fee is required for subject area retests. Payment will be made online by credit card, debit card, or voucher. An individual must make application prior to testing. Prior to testing, the applicant will provide a government-issued photo identification such as a valid driver’s license, a passport, a military ID, or other form of government-issued (national or foreign) identification that shows name, address, date of birth, signature, and photograph.

VI. Test Dates and Locations

The GED® Test is administered at the Pearson VUE Authorized Testing Center located at the PWCS Adult Learning Center, 14800 Joplin Road, Building #4, Manassas, Virginia 20112.

VII. Test Results

Test centers give testing candidates a document with instructions for obtaining results on www.ged.com. Certificates may be obtained electronically.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for reviewing this regulation in 2019.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS