



The 2014 GED® Program is here!

We're **excited** to offer you the 2014 GED® program at Central Minnesota Adult Basic Education! These are some frequently asked questions about the GED®.

WHAT IS THE GED®?

GED® stands for **General Educational Development**. The GED® test was originally designed during World War II as a way for veterans to get a high school equivalency certificate without going back to high school. Since 1942 the GED® test has opened doors to better career and education opportunities for more than 19 million graduates.

GED® Testing Service develops the GED® program, including the test, but each state manages its own local GED® program. This means each state has different funding, pricing, and policies.

WHAT IS TESTED ON THE 2014 GED® TEST?

The GED® test has been updated to make sure it measures what graduating high school seniors know and what colleges and employers will expect of you.

- There are four (4) parts:
 - o Science (*90 minutes*)
 - o Social Studies (*75 minutes*)
 - o Reasoning Through Language Arts (*150 minutes including a 10-minute break*)
 - o Mathematical Reasoning (*90 minutes*)
- You will need some familiarity with using a computer to:
 - o Type extended responses
 - o Drag and drop
 - o Drop-down
 - o Fill-in-the-blank



SHOULD I STUDY FOR THE GED® TEST?

Preparation is an essential part of any important exam. You probably have gained some knowledge and skills through life experience, reading, and informal training, but remember that the 2014 GED® tests are a very rigorous battery of four tests that take nearly seven hours to complete. Regardless of your ability, you'll be more certain to perform your best on the tests if you know what to expect prior to testing, so enroll in an ABE program to give yourself the time and preparation you need to be ready to take the GED® Test. Don't forget you'll also need some good computer skills to take the test.

One of the first steps upon enrolling in GED® preparation classes will be to register on MyGED™ (www.GED.com), the online portal to help prepare, register, schedule, check scores, and learn about college and job opportunities. You must have a working email address to complete this process. Your GED® instructor will assist you with this registration process.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PREPARE FOR THE GED®?

The length of time for individual learners varies according to the level at which they begin the program, the amount of time they can spend each week at GED® preparation classes, and how much studying they do at home. Some learners take several months to prepare for the GED®; others take two years.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I AM READY TO TAKE THE GED® TEST AND PASS IT?

Along with an instructor, you will develop a plan to prepare for the GED®. After you have studied and prepared for the GED® test, you will take GED Ready™: The Official Practice Test during GED® preparation class. These practice tests are given on MyGED™ (www.GED.com) at all of our ABE sites. At our Waite Park site, your \$20.00 materials fee includes two prepaid GED Ready™: Official Practice Tests in *Mathematical Reasoning* and *Reasoning Through Language Arts*. (At this time, there are only two fee-based versions of each subject area (*Science, Social Studies, Mathematical Reasoning, Reasoning Through Language Arts*) currently available.) Your scores on the practice test will indicate if you have the academic skills to successfully pass the GED® test. Your GED® instructor will discuss your practice test results with you.

HOW LONG IS THE OFFICIAL GED® TEST?

It takes approximately 7 hours total to take all four parts of the GED® test. A learner can take one, two, three or all four tests in a day.

WHAT IS THE PASSING SCORE ON THE 2014 GED® TEST?

To pass the 2014 GED® test, you need to earn at least **145** points on each of the four subject areas. According to the GED® Testing Service, a GED® Passing Score with Honors of 175 or more on a test demonstrates career- and college-readiness.

WHERE DO I GO TO TAKE THE GED®? HOW DO I REGISTER?

GED® testing is completed at official Pearson Vue testing centers only. A list of local testing sites is available on line or from your GED® instructor and the only testing site in the St. Cloud area is at St. Cloud State University at their Atwood Testing Center – 2nd floor. Scheduling is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week with MyGED™ (www.GED.com). Log in and click on “Schedule Test” on the top. Once you complete the scheduling questions you’ll be directed to choose your language, subject, and the day and time that work best for you to test. You can also schedule one test at a time to make sure you feel prepared every time or sign up for multiple tests. All of this can be done at one of our ABE sites, and we would be glad to help guide you through this process. There is **NO COST** to take the GED tests for the first time.

MAY I RETAKE THE TESTS IF I’M NOT SUCCESSFUL THE FIRST TIME?

Yes, you may retest any subject that was not passed, but there will be a \$10.00 test fee per test. Students can test three times on the same subject without waiting. After the third attempt, they have to wait 60 days before trying again for the same subject test.

HOW DO I GET MY RESULTS?

People who take the test will have online access to their scores through MyGED™ (www.GED.com) Enhanced Score Report tells students what the scores mean and what skills need improvement. The scores and reports will be available to the student within three hours of testing.

Please remember that your GED® transcript is a very important paper. Therefore, store it in a safe place. Also, be sure to give a copy of your GED® transcript to your ABE teacher for your education file.

WHAT ARE THE AGE REQUIREMENTS?

A person needs to be nineteen years of age to take a GED® test at an official Pearson Vue testing site in Minnesota. Any person who is 17 or 18 years old will need to apply for an age waiver prior to taking the GED test.

WHAT IS AN AGE WAIVER AND DO I NEED ONE?

If you are 17 or 18 years old, you will need to petition the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for an age waiver in order to take the GED® test. You will want to enroll in an ABE/GED® preparation class. You must take at least the GED Ready™: Official Practice Tests in *Reasoning through Language Arts* and *Mathematical Reasoning* and score at least a **145 on the Reading Practice Test and 145 on the Math Practice Test** OR take the TABE Reading and Math (Form A) and score at least **650 on each**. Your GED® instructor has a GED® age waiver checklist to help you through the age waiver process.

A parent or guardian signature is required on the age waiver application if you are 17 years old. Applications for 18-year-olds do not require a parental signature.

HOW IS THE GED® TEST VIEWED?

The GED® test is the legal equivalent of a high school diploma. It meets state and federal civil service requirements. Successful completion of a GED® is accepted for college admission.

WHERE CAN I GET SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GED?

Please contact the Adult Basic Education/GED® programs listed below for additional information to help you prepare for the GED® test. The first step is to register at one of the sites below to get started preparing for the GED test. Call 320-529-6500 X 6211 for additional area learning sites.

- **Discovery Adult Basic Education Center**
700 7th Street South
Waite Park, MN 56387
320-529-6500 X 6211
abe@isd742.org
- **Hillside Adult Basic Education Center**
30 South 4th Avenue
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-258-1112
hillsideabe@gmail.com



If you have Internet access, you can obtain additional information about the GED® at www.GEDtestingservice.com or www.GED.com.