

The HiSET/GED Two-Headed Monster: Implications for Preparation

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The Challenge

Our goal is to produce college- and career-ready students on a path towards earning a family-sustaining wage rather than merely a bunch of marginally-more-literate poor people





The Twin Challenges

- ☒ Too few of our students are earning the High School Equivalency Credential
- ☒ Too few of our students who earn the Equivalency Credential ever earn a post-secondary Certificate or Degree

§ Example: 90% of HSE grads entering MA CCs end up in Dev Ed math





In Response...

 New Standards: in our case, the *College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education*

 New Assessments: in our case, the HiSET, the GED test, and the TASC
(For MA, 2017-2020, the HiSET and GED)



The Goal...

...is to make the assessment and credentialing process not an end in itself but instead a part of a comprehensive system leading to further education, training, and family-sustaining wages.



Assessment Schizophrenia

The Assessment must:

 Certify that the candidate has the skills and knowledge of a high-school graduate

 Be predictive of college and career readiness



Team Effort

- ☒ The Assessment Process
- ☒ Directors and Teachers
- ☒ Curriculum Developers
- ☒ The PD System
- ☒ The state HSE Office
- ☒ ACLS



Pressure Brought To Bear

- ☒ The needs and goals of our students
- ☒ WIOA
 - ê Defined outcomes: credential attainment, post-secondary education, training, employment
 - ê Development of work-ready soft skills
- ☒ ACLS



GENERAL OVERVIEW



General Info

HiSET

- ☑ Website: <https://hiset.ets.org/>
- ☑ 2017 Test-At-A-Glance: https://hiset.ets.org/s/pdf/2017_taa.pdf

GED

- ☑ Website: www.ged.com
- ☑ Assessment Guide for Educators:
<http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/the-new-assessment-downloads>



General Info

HiSET

- ☑ 5 Subtests/Battery
- ☑ Both computer-delivered and paper-based testing
- ☑ Available in both English and Spanish
- ☑ 2015 Passing Rate: 75% (MA – 72%)

GED

- ☑ 4 Modules/Battery
- ☑ Computer-delivered testing only (except for accommodations)
- ☑ Available in both English and Spanish
- ☑ 2015 Passing Rate: 79%



The Registration Process

About the same for both tests:

- ☑ Register, schedule and pay on-line
- ☑ All fees go to the Vendor and are then distributed
- ☑ Candidate submits certain demographic and other information
- ☑ Candidate signs off on certain regulations



The Registration Process

On both tests:

- ☒ Candidate under 18 cannot schedule tests until withdrawal letter approved by the HSE Office

But:

- ☒ For HiSET, the Verification of Eligibility Form must be submitted to the test center prior to testing
- ☒ For GED, eligibility questions are signed off on on-line



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The Accommodations Process

About the same on both tests:

- ☒ All requests go through the Vendor, not the state office



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Fee Structure (HiSET)

- ☒ **\$100/battery** (\$24 for the 1st subtest, \$19 for the remaining 4 subtests in the initial battery)
- ☒ **\$9/retest** (up to two per subtest, within one year of initial test)
- ☒ **\$19/subtest** (after one year from initial test)
- ☒ Starting January 1, 2019:
- ☒ **\$103.75/computer battery**
- ☒ **\$125/paper battery**
- ☒ (with a proportional increase in individual subtest fees)



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Fee Structure (GED)

-  **\$125/battery** (\$31.25/module)
-  **\$10/retest** (up to two per module, within one year of initial test)
-  **\$30/retest (?)** (after one year from initial test)



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Scoring

HiSET®

-  scaled-score range per subtest: 0-20
-  To pass: no subtest score lower than 8 and a battery total of 45 or above

GED®

-  scaled-score range per module: 100-200
-  To pass: a score on each module of 145 or above



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HiSET Reading and Writing

Language Arts-Reading (65 minutes)

-  40 Multiple-Choice Questions

Language Arts-Writing (120 minutes)

-  51 Questions
 - § 50 multiple-choice questions
 - § 1 Essay



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GED Reading and Writing

Reasoning through Language Arts (150 minutes)

- ☑ 51 Questions
- ☑ Section 1- (27 minutes*)
- ☑ Section 2-Extended Response (45 minutes)
- ☑ Student Break (10 minutes)
- ☑ Section 3 - (60 minutes)

☑ *The time allotted for Sections 1 and 3 may vary slightly, but the total test time will always be 150 minutes.



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HiSET Math

Mathematics (90 minutes)

- ☑ 50 Multiple-Choice Questions

Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator



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GED Math

Mathematical Reasoning (115 minutes)

- ☑ 46 Questions
- ☑ Part 1 (first 5 questions) calculator not allowed
- ☑ Part 2 (remaining 41 questions) calculator allowed
- ☑ Possible Item Types:
 - § Multiple choice
 - § Drag-and-drop
 - § Hot spot
 - § Fill in the blank

Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator



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HiSET Science

Science (80 minutes)

 50 multiple-choice questions



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GED Science

Science (90 minutes)

-  34 Questions
-  Possible Item Types:
 -  Multiple choice
 -  Short answer
 -  Drag-and-drop
 -  Hot spot
 -  Fill in the blank

Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator



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HiSET Social Studies

Social Studies (70 minutes)

 50 Multiple-Choice Questions



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GED Social Studies

Social Studies (70 minutes)

- ☒ 35 questions
- ☒ Possible Item Types:
 - § Multiple choice
 - § Drag-and-drop
 - § Hot spot
 - § Fill in the blank

Calculator: TI-30XS scientific calculator



GED Computer Skills

- ☒ Mouse skills
- ☒ Basic keyboarding skills
- ☒ Use of tools embedded in testing software

A tutorial is available 24/7 on the GED website



Before the Deluge



College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education



Three Key Shifts: ELA

-  Regular Practice with **Complex Text** and its **Academic Language**
-  Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening Grounded in **Evidence from Text**, Both Literary and Informational
-  **Building Knowledge** through content-rich non-fiction



Three Key Shifts: Math

-  **Focus:** deep mastery of a core set of quantitative reasoning skills, relevant to a wide range of career and post-secondary pathways
-  **Coherence:** Designing learning around coherent progressions level to level
-  **Rigor:** In Each Major Content Area, Pursue Rigorously **Conceptual Understanding, Procedural Skill and Fluency, and Application** with Equal Intensity



Standards for Mathematical Practice

1. Making sense of problems & persevering in solving them
2. Reason abstractly & quantitatively
3. Construct viable arguments & critique the reasoning of others
4. Model with mathematics
5. Use appropriate tools strategically
6. Attend to precision
7. Look for & make use of structure
8. Look for & express regularity in repeated reasoning



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Webb's Depth of Knowledge Scale



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Webb's Depth of Knowledge Scale

Cognitive Complexity
rather than
Difficulty



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Webb's Depth of Knowledge Scale

- ☒ Level One (Recall/Reproduction) – the recall of information such as a fact, definition, term, simple procedure, or formula
- ☒ Level Two (Skills/Concepts) – engagement of some mental processing beyond a habitual response
- ☒ Level Three (Strategic Thinking) – requires reasoning, planning, using evidence, and a higher level of thinking
- ☒ Level Four (Extended Thinking) – requires complex reasoning, planning, developing, and thinking over an extended period of time



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Develop (or Enhance) a New “Classroom Culture”



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“Classroom Culture”

- ☒ Students take more responsibility for their own work
- ☒ Students engage in “productive struggle” with rich challenging tasks.
- ☒ Resolution comes only gradually through interactions and discussion.
- ☒ Students study fewer tasks but in greater depth: draft solutions, compare to others, redraft their ideas
- ☒ The teacher’s role:
 - ☒ to prompt students to reflect and reason
 - ☒ to question to support students’ thinking and depth of knowledge
 - ☒ no answers, no solutions



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The Growth Mind-Set (Intelligence Can be Developed)

Leads to a Tendency to:

- ☒ Embrace Challenges
- ☒ Persist in the Face of Setbacks
- ☒ See Effort as the Path to Mastery
- ☒ Learn from Criticism
- ☒ Find Lessons and Inspiration in the Success of Others



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Speaking and Listening Strand

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.
4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.



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Standards for Mathematical Practice

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Anchor Standards – Reading

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.



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Anchor Standards – Writing

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.



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Math - Pinnacle Standards

- ☒ Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- ☒ Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- ☒ Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- ☒ Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle, measure, area, surface area, and volume.



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Transfer of Learning: the conscious and intelligent use of what we “know” in new and different circumstances, situations, and applications.



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Implications for Preparation



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Reading & Writing

Similarities

- ☒ Close Reading
- ☒ Clear Writing
- ☒ Editing and Understanding the Use of Standard Written English in Context
- ☒ 45-Minute Essay Based on Evidence from Two Texts



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Reading & Writing

Similarities

- ☒ Webb's DOK
- ☒ Emphasizes close reading: Interpretation of individual words, phrases, and sentences.
- ☒ Emphasis on Reading Anchor Standards 1-2, 4, and 9
- ☒ Emphasis on Writing Anchor Standards 1-2, 4, and 8
- ☒ Emphasis on Language Anchor Standards 1-2, and 4



Reading & Writing

Differences

- ☒ HiSET: 60% Literary Texts, 40% Informational Texts;
GED: 75% Informational Texts, 25% Literary Texts
- ☒ Technology-Enhanced Items



Science - Similarities

Competencies and Processes
are more important than
Content

Recognize the Fundamental Components
of Scientific Investigations



Science - Similarities

- ☒ Comprehending Scientific Presentation
- ☒ Designing Investigations
- ☒ Reasoning from Data
- ☒ Evaluating Conclusions with Evidence
- ☒ Working with Findings
- ☒ Expressing Scientific Information
- ☒ Understanding and Applying Scientific Theories
- ☒ Using Probability and Statistics in a Science Setting



Science - Differences

- ☒ GED incorporates Math statistics and data interpretation standards
 - ☒ Use of a calculator
 - ☒ Emphasis on Rigor: 1) Conceptual Understanding; 2) Procedural Fluency; 3) Application
- ☒ Technology-Enhanced Items
 - ☒ Example-Short Answer: "Design an experiment..."



Social Studies - Similarities

Content
and
Competencies and Processes
are equally important



Social Studies - Similarities

Focus on test-takers' ability to:

- ☒ Glean Information from Source Documents
- ☒ Reason with Data Representations and Statistics
- ☒ Apply Key Concepts and Ideas Relevant to Social Sciences

- ☒ Fifty percent of the items refer to charts, graphs, maps, diagrams, or political cartoons



Social Studies – Similarities (?)

Helpful Knowledge

- ☒ Basic U.S. Geography
- ☒ Civil War plus 20th Century Wars
- ☒ Foundations Documents
- ☒ Forms of Government/Economic Systems



Social Studies - Differences

Content Categories

- I. U.S. History: HiSET-35%; GED-20%
- II. Civics/Government HiSET-35%; GED-50%
- III. Economics HiSET-20%; GED-15%
- IV. Geography HiSET-10%; GED-15%



Social Studies - Differences

- ☑ GED incorporates Math statistics and data interpretation standards
 - § Use of a calculator
 - § Emphasis on Rigor: 1) Conceptual Understanding; 2) Procedural Fluency; 3) Application
- ☑ Technology-Enhanced Items



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Math - Similarities

Pinnacle Standards

- ☑ Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- ☑ Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- ☑ Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- ☑ Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle, measure, area, surface area, and volume.



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PINNACLE STANDARDS

College & Careers

Post-Secondary
Education & Training

Work and Life

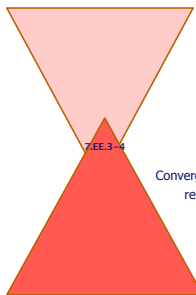
Level E

Level D

Level C

Level B

Level A



Increasing sophistication
in applying, modeling and
combining with other tools

Converging trajectories of learning,
reasoning, and practicing



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Math - Similarities

To Pass

- ☒ Multi-Step Word Problems, Simple Arithmetic
- ☒ Equations/Inequalities with One Variable
- ☒ Ratio Concepts/Unit Rates
- ☒ Interpreting Graphs and Tables of All Kinds

Including:

- ☒ Signed Numbers
- ☒ Exponents and Radicals
- ☒ Percent/Fraction/Decimal Equivalents



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Math - Similarities

Function concepts and nonlinear expressions and equations

- ☒ Understanding and applying the concept of a function
- ☒ Using function notation
- ☒ Translating a variety of representations of a function, including tables and equations
- ☒ Solving quadratic equations
- ☒ Interpreting key features of both linear and nonlinear functions

(College-Ready Level)(?)



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Math - Differences

GED: 30% of the questions reference a specific Mathematical Practice

- ☒ MP.1 Building Solution Pathways and Lines of Reasoning
- ☒ MP.2 Abstracting Problems
- ☒ MP.3 Furthering Lines of Reasoning
- ☒ MP.4 Mathematical Fluency
- ☒ MP.5 Evaluating Reasoning and Solution Pathways



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Math - Differences

1

☒ GED: 55% Algebra Concepts; HiSET: 45% Algebra Concepts

☒ GED: Technology-enhanced items

☒ GED Drop-down calculator: TI-30XS; HiSET drop-down calculator: simple four-function



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