

HiSET™ Information Brief

The purpose of the ETS High School Equivalency Test (*HiSET*™) is to certify a candidate's attainment of academic knowledge and skills equivalent to those of a high school graduate. *HiSET*™ scores will identify those candidates who have performed at a level consistent with high school equivalency. Information from the HiSET program also will help identify areas in which candidates are career- and college-ready, as well as areas in which additional preparation may be needed.

The work of the HiSET program has been divided into two phases (Phases 1 and 2) that will continue to evolve as many states adopt and implement career- and college-readiness curriculum standards and move toward new standards in science and social studies.

Defining the current target body of knowledge and skills within each area is the primary focus of Phase 1. Measuring that well-defined set of core competencies, the Phase 1 HiSET program will be available in January 2014. The Phase 1 HiSET program will assess the knowledge and skills measured by the five tests described in this document. These tests reflect core competencies as identified by current stakeholders and core curriculum standards. Phase 1 also reflects a substantial alignment with Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Information Specific to Maine

The HiSET will replace the GED as Maine's High School Equivalency Assessment. All of the local adult education programs currently administering the GED will begin administering the paper version of the HiSET starting January 2, 2014. The paper-based version of the assessment will continue throughout 2014 with programs transitioning to HiSET's computer-based version as they are able.

The HiSET consists of the following five subtests: Language Arts Reading, Language Arts Writing, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. All of the tests are multiple choice with the exception of the essay portion of the Language Arts Writing Test. A passing score on each subject test is a scaled score of 8 out of 20, but learners must achieve a total scaled score of 45 to successfully achieve their high school equivalency diploma. Learners that achieve a scaled score of 15 or higher on each subject test are designated as College and Career Ready.

Because HiSET's subject tests are the same as the current version of the GED, Maine will be able to apply the passing scores of GED subject tests to the HiSET. This means that unlike much of the country, Maine learners will not fall off the "GED testing cliff" at the end of the year. They may have started by taking the GED in 2013, but they can finish by taking the remaining subject tests with the HiSET in 2014.

As has always been the case in Maine, there is NO COST for Maine residents to prepare for and take the HiSET. Local adult education programs provide HiSET testing, preparation materials, pre-tests, and instruction- all at no cost to the learner.