

The GED® in South Dakota

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE GED® TEST?

The American Council on Education developed the GED® Diploma in the 1940s to help veterans who had joined the military without finishing high school. Passing the test allowed them access to careers and postsecondary programs that required a high school diploma. In the 80+ years since, millions of Americans and thousands of South Dakotans have earned their credential for both personal and professional gain.

Today's GED® test is four separate exams covering four content areas measuring an individual has gained the same or "equivalent" knowledge of a traditional high school graduate. The four subject areas are: Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA), Social Studies, Science and Mathematical Reasoning.

Individuals who earn their GED® Credential are just as prepared to enter the workforce, launch a career, or enter a postsecondary degree or training program as traditional high school graduates.

REASONING THROUGH LANGUAGE ARTS		SOCIAL STUDIES	
• Reading for Meaning • Grammar & Language • Identifying and Creating Arguments		• Reading for Meaning in Social Studies • Analyzing Historical Events & Arguments in Social Studies • Using Numbers & Graphs in Social Studies	
 Time to Test: 150 minutes	 Cost: \$50	 Time to Test: 70 minutes	 Cost: \$50
GED® SUBJECT AREAS			
SCIENCE		MATHEMATICAL REASONING	
• Reading for Meaning in Science • Designing & Interpreting Science Experiments • Using Numbers and Graphics in Science		• Graphs & Functions • Basic Math • Geometry • Algebra	
 Time to Test: 90 minutes	 Cost: \$50	 Time to Test: 115 minutes	 Cost: \$50

I'M READY TO GET MY GED® CREDENTIAL – WHERE DO I START?

The first step to earning your credential is to create an account at <https://www.ged.com/>.

Creating an account enables you to connect with a preparation program, schedule practice exams, and find and schedule official exams. ***YOU CAN'T TEST IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ACCOUNT SET UP.*** For more help on setting up a GED.com account, visit the South Dakota Department of Education's High School Equivalency Page at <https://doe.sd.gov/GED/>.

HOW OLD DO I NEED TO BE TO TEST IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

Anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to take the GED® exams in South Dakota.

Individuals ages 16 or 17 may be able to test if the necessary waivers are on file with the state.

I AM UNDERAGE (16-17). CAN I TAKE THE GED® EXAMS IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

In South Dakota, individuals who are 16- or 17-years old, MAY be eligible to take the GED® Test if:

1. The child is enrolled in a South Dakota school district and is participating in an in-school or school-sponsored high school equivalency preparation program.
2. The child has the permission of their parent/legal guardian.
3. The child has been court ordered or has authorization from a court services officer to take the exams.
4. The child is under the direction of the Department of Corrections.
5. The child is enrolled in an approved Job Corps program.
6. The child has been withdrawn from an accredited school in South Dakota and the family has filed proper notification to the South Dakota Department of Education that they are providing alternative instruction (homeschooling) to their child.

The following Codified Laws further outline these exemptions:

[Codified Law 13-27-1 | South Dakota Legislature](#)

[Codified Law 13-27-3 | South Dakota Legislature](#)

More information about underage GED® Testing can be found on the South Dakota Department of Education's High School Equivalency Page at <https://doe.sd.gov/GED/>.

DO I HAVE TO LIVE IN SOUTH DAKOTA TO TEST?

If you are over the age of 18, you do not need to be a resident to test in South Dakota. Individuals under the age of 18, need to meet the underage requirements to test in South Dakota.

HOW MUCH ARE THE GED® TESTS AND TEST RETAKES IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

Each subject test costs \$50 or \$200 for all four subject areas, regardless of if you test online or in-person at a testing center.

In-person test takers can receive one discounted retake for every GED® subject test purchased but not passed. This discount only applies to **IN-PERSON TESTING**.

As of September 2025, GED Ready® Practice Tests cost \$7.99 per subject area. Please visit <https://www.ged.com/> for updated promotions and pricing.

DO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH DAKOTA ACCEPT THE GED®?

Almost every public college, technical school, or university (98%) in the United States recognize the GED® Credential and have policies for accepting individuals who have completed their credential, and most postsecondary program in South Dakota have policies to accept the GED® Credential. Some postsecondary institutions even offer free or reduced cost college credits for GED® exam scores at or above 175. Visit the Our Dakota Dreams website at <https://ourdakotadreams.com/>. Click Incoming College Students - Alternative High School Completers to view South Dakota's GED® + College Credit policy.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP PREPARING FOR THE GED® EXAMS?

1. South Dakota Test Preparation Centers
 - Depending on your age and where you live, there are several GED® Test Preparation Programs available across the state. Visit the South Dakota Department of Education's High School Equivalency Page at <https://doe.sd.gov/GED/>, for a full list of test preparation programs.
2. South Dakota State Library Online
 - The South Dakota State Library has also curated resources to help support individuals studying for the GED® exams. To access these additional resources:
 - Go to <https://library.sd.gov/>
 - Under **Quick Links**, click on **Electronic Resources**
 - Scroll through the alphabetic list and click on **Gale Presents: Peterson's Test Prep**
 - Register for a free account to access GED® practice exam and lessons.
3. GED Testing Services® has free and paid study resources available on their website at <https://www.ged.com/>, under the **Study** page.
4. GED® Ready Tests are the official practice exams offered by GED Testing Services® and can be completed online through a student's GED.com account. These practice exams provide a personalized study plan that can help an individual determine if they are ready to take the official exam and connect individuals to additional study resources based on their practice test results.

WHERE CAN I GO TO TAKE A TEST IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

South Dakota Testing Centers

- Visit the South Dakota Department of Education's High School Equivalency Page at <https://doe.sd.gov/GED/>, for a full list approved testing sites in South Dakota.

Online Testing

- Anyone who is eligible to take the exams in South Dakota can now also test online. For more information about testing online, include network and device requirements, visit <https://www.ged.com/take-the-ged-test-online/>.

ARE THERE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE?

Yes – GED Testing Services® is committed to providing students with full access to GED® exams for anyone with disabilities and support the intention of the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA). Test accommodations are considered on a case-by-case basis. For more information on accommodation and how to request an accommodation, visit https://www.ged.com/about_test/accommodations/.

WHAT IS THE RETAKE POLICY IF I DON'T PASS A TEST?

For those testing in-person at a Testing Center IN South Dakota, there is no waiting period for your first two retakes. After taking a test subject 3 times, you'll have to wait 60 days before retesting. There's no limit to how many times you can test in a year.

For those testing using the Online Proctored Exam, online testing allows for one retake before a 60-day waiting period. After taking a test subject two times online, you'll have to wait 60 days before retesting.

HOW DO I GET MY OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OR TRANSCRIPT?

One free electronic diploma and transcript download link will be e-mailed to the e-mail address associated with your GED.com account once you have passed all four GED® exams and earned your credential. This email will come from noreply@parchment.com. Make sure to check your JUNK or SPAM folders if you don't see this sender in your inbox.

If you still do not see a link, please contact GED Testing Services® directly using one of the contact options available at https://www.ged.com/contact_us/.

The South Dakota Department of Education **DOES NOT issue official transcripts or certificates** and is unable to provide these documents to any individual who has earned their credential. All requests for official documents must be done through GED Testing Services®.

HOW DO I GET A DUPLICATE OR COPY OF MY CERTIFICATE OR TRANSCRIPT?

This depends on the year that you were issued your original GED® Credential. Please use the following how-to documents, which can also be found on the South Dakota Department of Education's High School Equivalency Page <https://doe.sd.gov/GED/>.

- [Ordering a Duplicate Transcript for Test Takers Who Earned their Credential **BEFORE 2014**](#)
- [Ordering a Duplicate Transcript for Test Takers Who Earned their Credential **AFTER 2014**](#)

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GED® CREDENTIAL IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

For more information on South Dakota's GED® Policies, visit https://www.ged.com/policies/south_dakota/. For additional questions about the GED® Credential in South Dakota, please contact the State Administrator at the Department of Education by email or phone.

Email: GED@state.sd.us

Phone: 605-773-4726