



Harnessing the possibilities with GED®



A high school education opens the door to opportunity. Sometimes, however, life circumstances get in the way of a student being able to earn their diploma.

For students at risk of not graduating on time or dropping out of school, another path is available: the GED® credential. The General Education Development, or GED®, certificate is a high school equivalency credential that can be earned when graduation from high school is out of reach. Whether a student is looking to jump directly into the workforce or preparing for further education, the path becomes possible with a GED®.

“Earning my GED® has helped me with confidence. There was a point I thought I’d never finish school, but once I got my GED®, it proved I was capable of a lot more than I thought.”



Marissa,
GED® Graduate

98%

Nearly all postsecondary institutions in the U.S., and all South Dakota public universities and technical colleges, accept students who have earned a GED® credential.

What options are available for school-age youth?

South Dakota laws allow schools to support students 16 and over in earning their GED® credential if certain conditions exist. School-based programs assist students throughout the process of preparing for and completing their exams. These programs have proven highly effective in helping students earn their GED®: 90 percent of test takers aged 16-18 who are part of a GED® prep program are able to earn the credential.

The credential can be a valuable option – allowing the holder to move toward their goals and build a brighter future, and ultimately, contribute to the state's workforce and economy.

\$10,000/year

In South Dakota, individuals who graduate high school or earn a high school equivalency credential average nearly \$10,000 more a year in earnings than peers without a diploma or equivalency credential.

C

The required scores to pass the GED® exams are equivalent to earning a "C" average in high school. Test takers must pass all four tests to earn the credential.

Individuals who have earned a GED® credential are eligible to serve in the U.S. military.

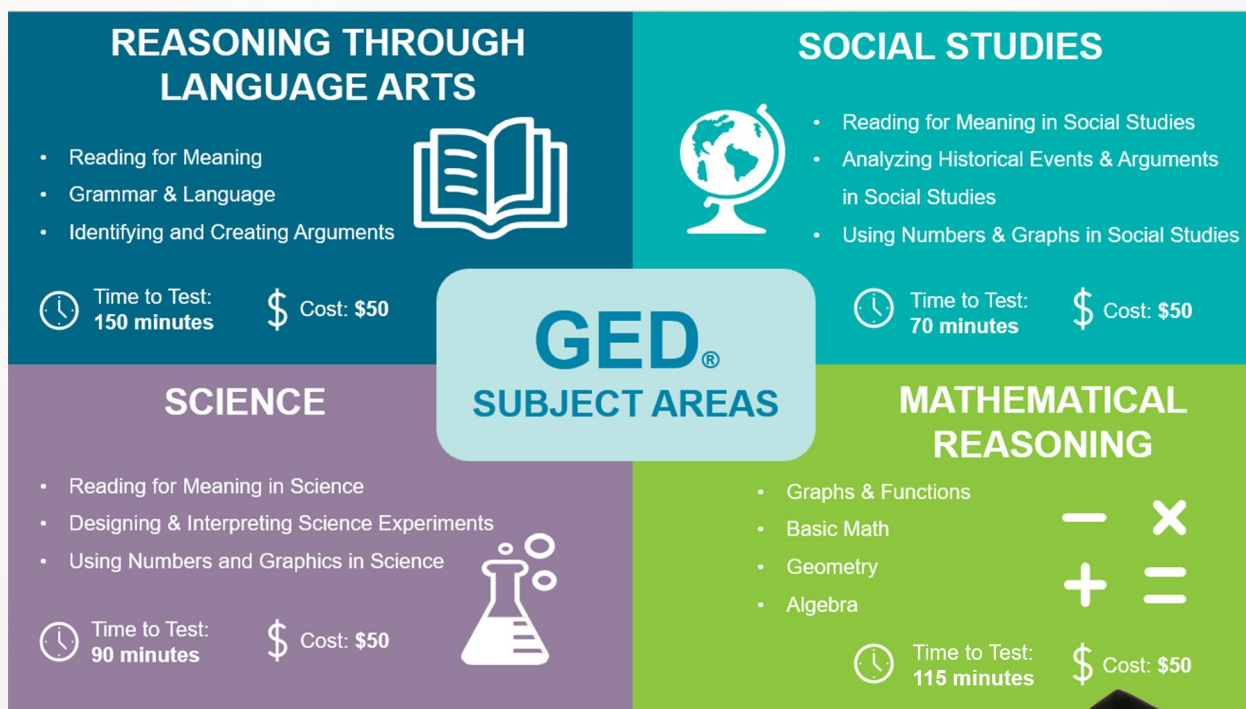
“The GED® offers a second chance for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, opening doors to further education, better job opportunities, and personal growth. It empowers them to move forward with confidence, knowing they have taken an important step toward building a brighter future.”



*Justin Conroy, Ed.D.,
Title 1D Principal,
Rapid City Area Schools*

What is the GED® credential?

The GED® credential has come a long way since its beginnings in the 1940s, when it helped veterans who joined the military without first finishing high school. Today, the GED® is a series of four exams that assess an individual's competency. The exams may be taken on different days, months, or even years. Test takers must pass all four exams to earn their credential, which unlocks opportunities for careers and postsecondary.



“Earning my GED® credential has helped me to get accepted into Lake Area Technical College and work towards helping others get on their feet.”

Cali, GED® Graduate



90%

of students in a
school based
program earn their
GED® credential



I'll never forget one student's journey. While working on his GED®, he showed me a short list of jobs available to him—positions that didn't require a diploma. Determined to create a better future, he spent six months studying, even using his lunch breaks at work to prepare. The day he earned his GED, he came back to me, beaming with excitement. 'Look at my job opportunities now,' he said, holding a list three pages long. That diploma changed everything. He went from working at McDonald's to securing a job at the local courthouse and eventually moving into the corrections field.



*Linda Boes, Gregory/Winner
GED® Tutor, Sinte Gleska University*

Learn more about the GED® credential at doe.sd.gov/GED or call (605) 773-3134.



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