



# The GED<sup>®</sup> Credential

## South Dakota 2026 Data Summary

*Prepared February 2026*



Originally developed in the 1940s, the GED® test was created to help veterans who joined the military without finishing high school earn a credential that would allow them access to careers and postsecondary programs requiring a high school diploma.



**Over 72,500 South Dakota  
GED® grads since 1940s**

**Over 22,000 South Dakota  
GED® grads since 2000**





**33% ↑**

*High school equivalency (HSE) credential earners and HS grads with some post-secondary training avg. annual income over non grads.*

**3x**

*Higher rates of unemployment for individuals who haven't earned their high school equivalency credential (HSE) or a HS diploma*

**67%**

*Projected jobs only available to individuals who have earned their high school equivalency credential (HSE) or HS diploma*



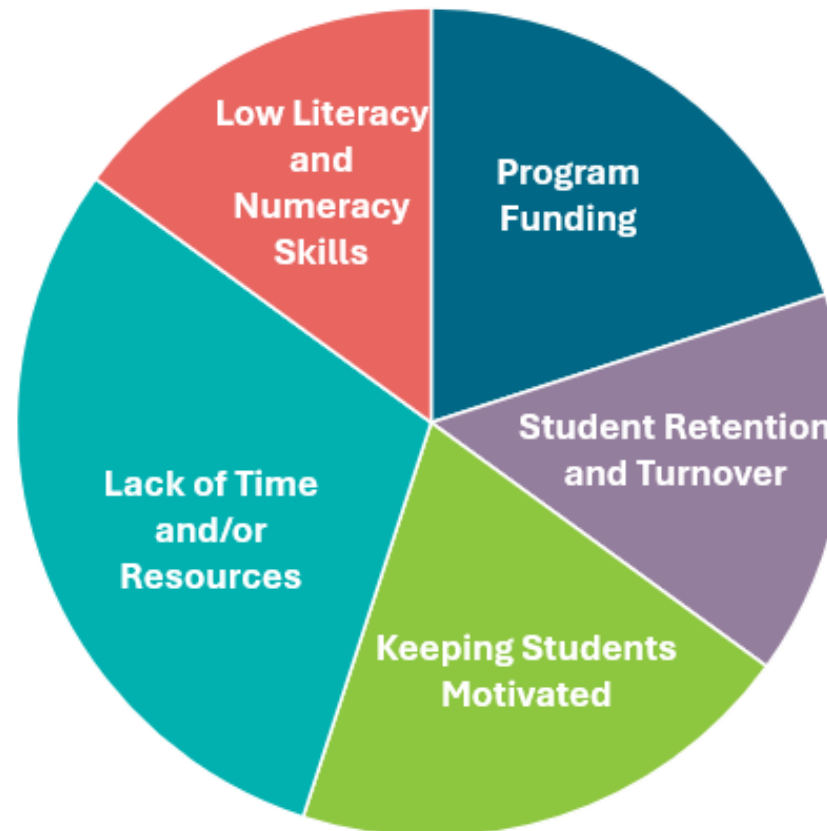




## MOST COMMON BARRIERS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA GED® TEST TAKERS

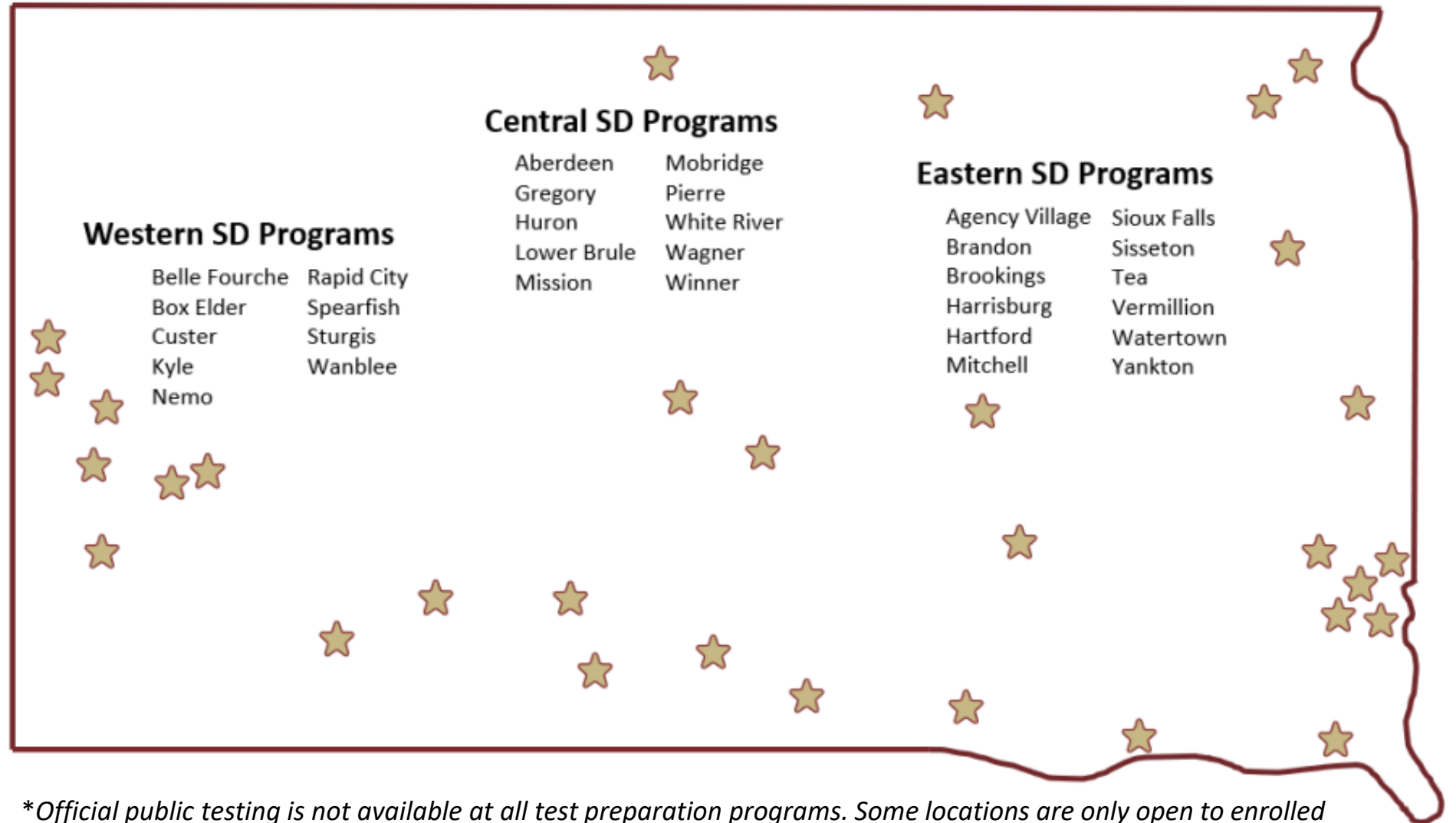


## MOST COMMON BARRIERS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA GED® PROGRAM PROVIDERS



# South Dakota

## Test Preparation Centers




*\*Official public testing is not available at all test preparation programs. Some locations are only open to enrolled students. To view details about test preparation and testing availability at each program click [HERE](#).*



# WHO IS TAKING THE EXAMS?

The **GED**<sup>®</sup>  
In South Dakota

Adult Basic Education (ABE)



Corrections



Online

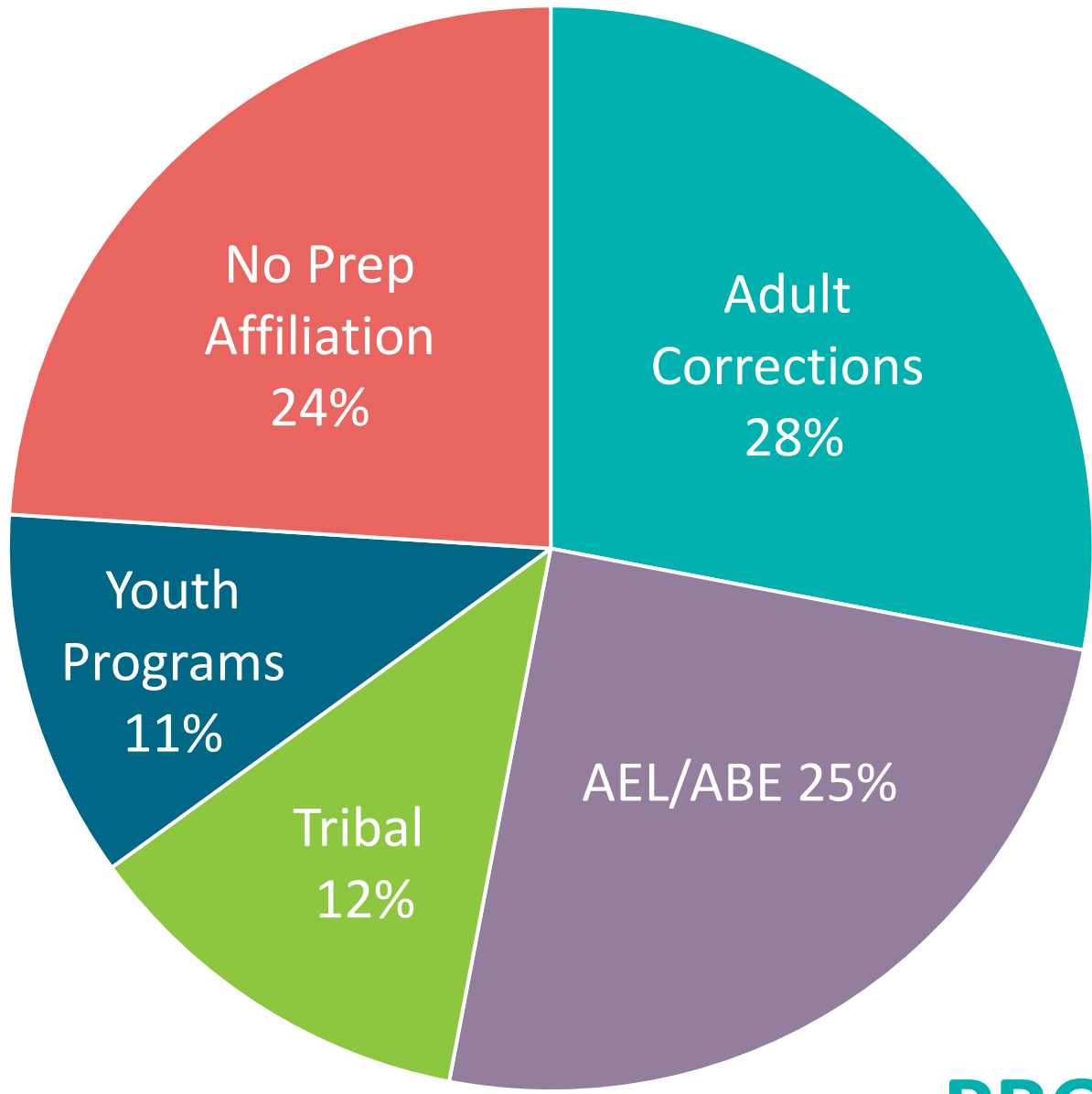


Tribal Affiliated



School-Aged Programs



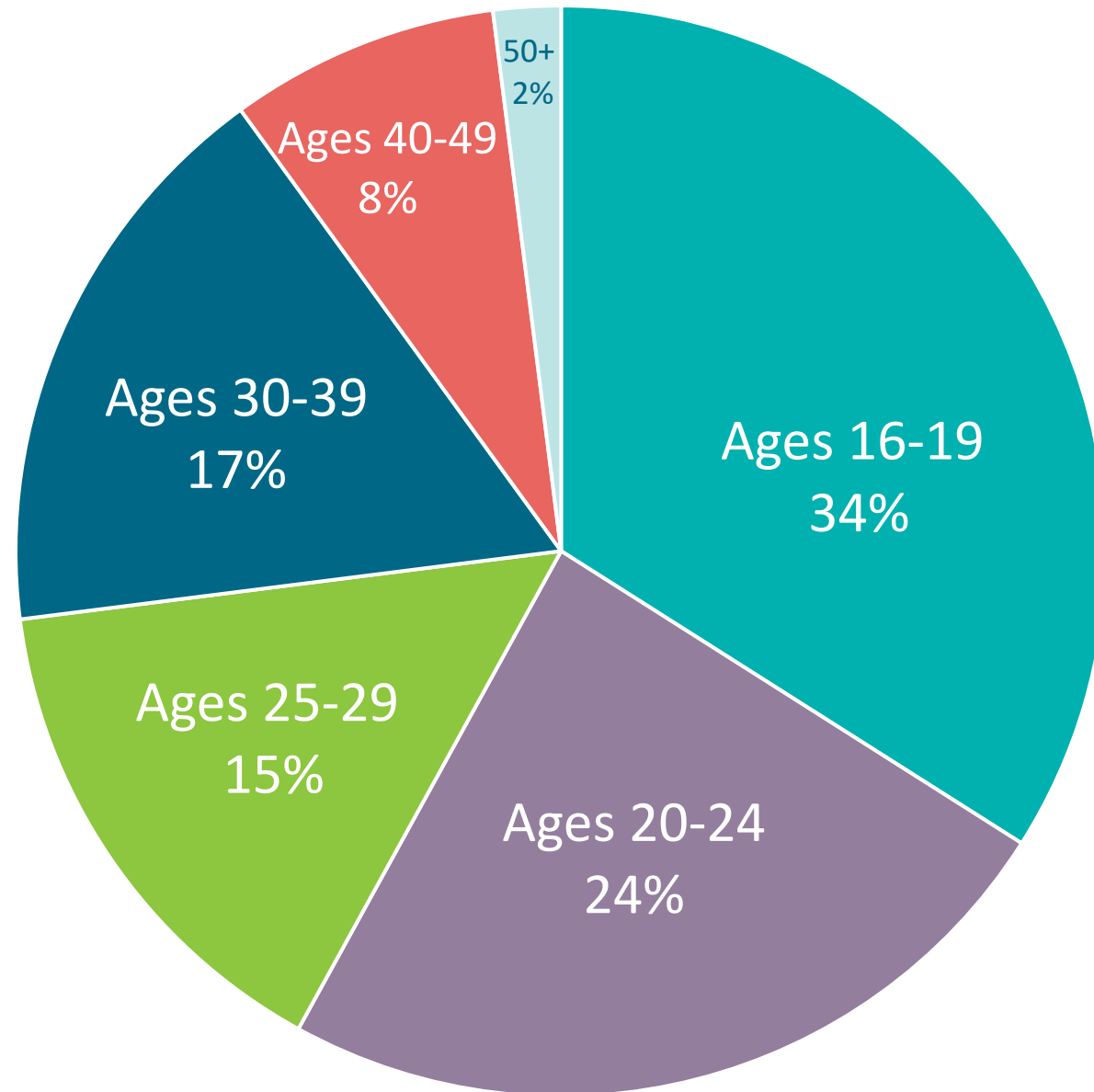


**2025**

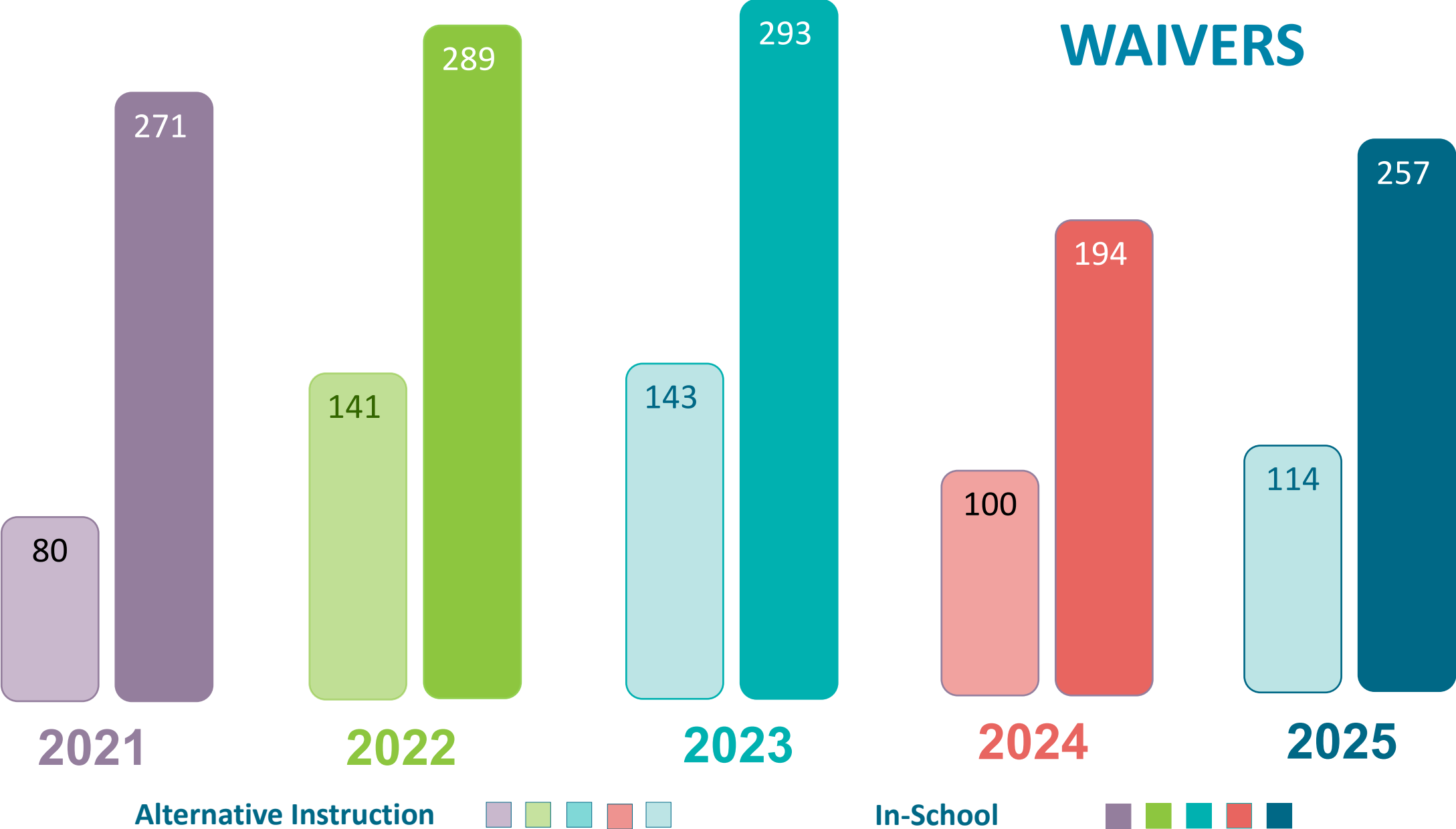
**PROGRAM AFFILIATION**



# 2025 TEST TAKERS BY AGE



# UNDERAGE GED® WAIVERS





1313 Unique  
Test Takers



53% Completed in  
less than  
3 months



3931 Total  
Tests Taken



25 Avg. Test  
Taker Age



154 Avg. Passing  
Score

590   
Credential Earners

79%   
SD Pass Rate

850   
1st Time Test Takers

# 2025

## SOUTH DAKOTA TESTING DATA



# REASONING THROUGH LANGUAGE ARTS

- Reading for Meaning
- Grammar & Language
- Identifying and Creating Arguments




 Time to Test:  
**150 minutes**

 Cost: **\$50**

# SOCIAL STUDIES

- Reading for Meaning in Social Studies
- Analyzing Historical Events & Arguments in Social Studies
- Using Numbers & Graphs in Social Studies



 Time to Test:  
**70 minutes**

 Cost: **\$50**

## GED<sup>®</sup> SUBJECT AREAS

# SCIENCE

- Reading for Meaning in Science
- Designing & Interpreting Science Experiments
- Using Numbers and Graphics in Science

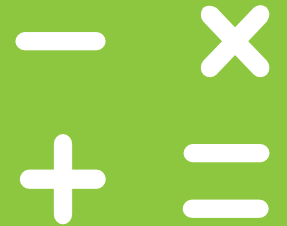



 Time to Test:  
**90 minutes**

 Cost: **\$50**

# MATHEMATICAL REASONING

- Graphs & Functions
- Basic Math
- Geometry
- Algebra



 Time to Test:  
**115 minutes**

 Cost: **\$50**

# Understanding GED® Scores

## Not Passing (144 ↓ )

A score in this range indicates the student has not yet demonstrated the skills necessary to earn their credential.

## High School Equivalency (145-164)

A score in this range means a student has the skills and knowledge equivalent to that of a high school graduate. These scores are set by the American Council® on Education.

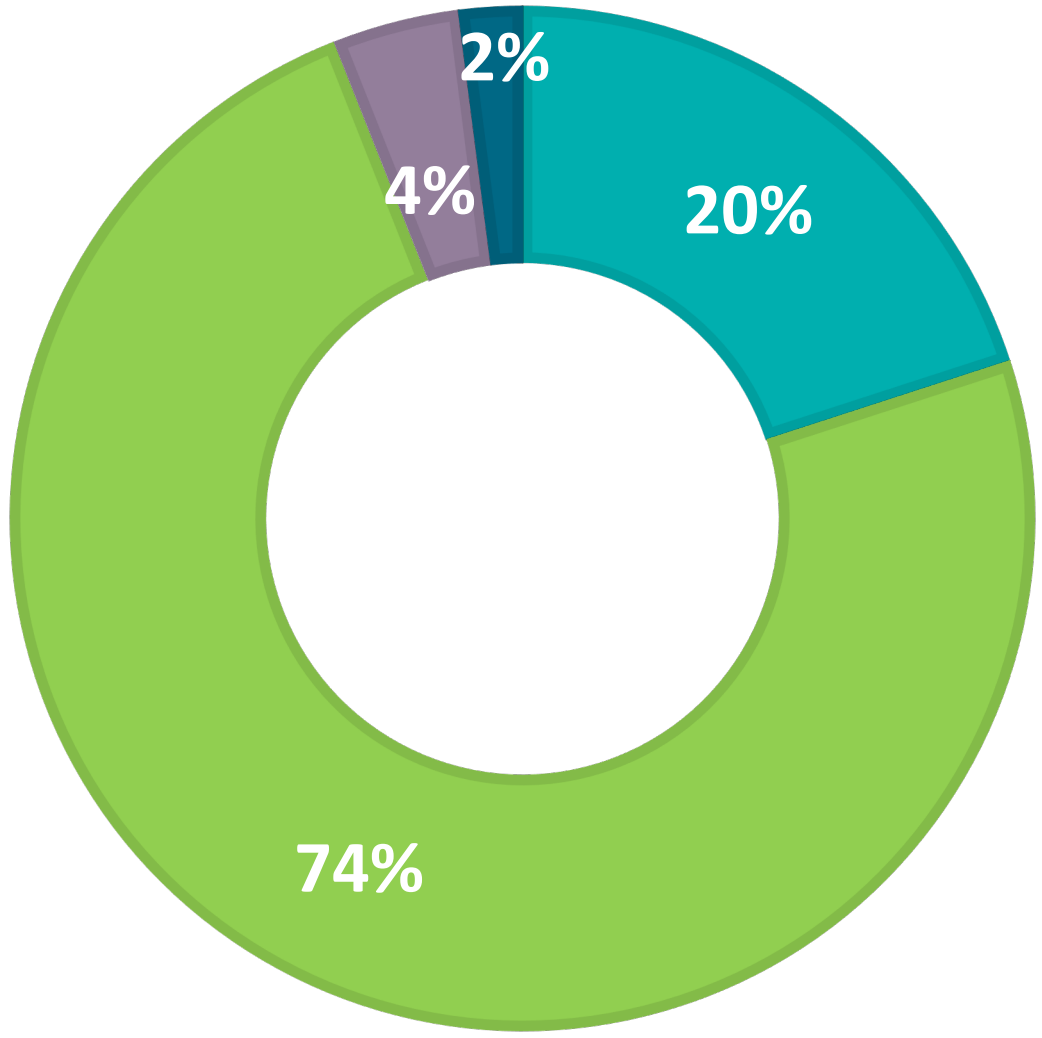
## GED® College Ready (165-174)

A score in this range indicates a student is both college and career ready. Some colleges require a score in this range to begin taking their credit-bearing courses.

## GED® College Ready + Credit (175 ↑)

A score in this range indicates that the student is demonstrating some knowledge and skills taught at the postsecondary level. Students may be eligible to earn college credit for scores in this range.









# MATH

## 1050 Total Math Tests Attempted

Average Passing Math Score: 153

-  Non-passing Attempts
-  High School Equivalency (145-164)
-  College Ready (165-174)
-  College + Credit (175+)

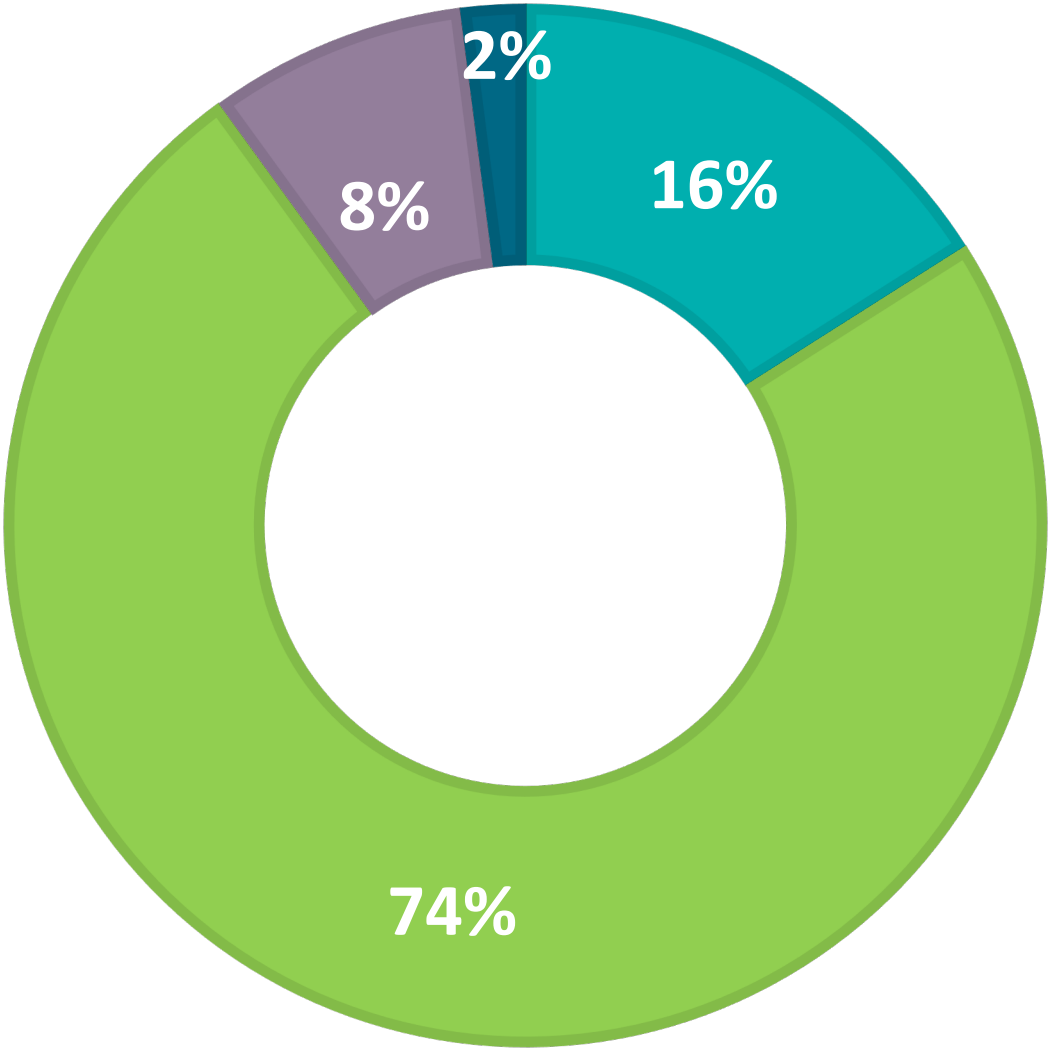




# REASONING THROUGH LANGUAGE ARTS (RLA)

- Non-passing Attempts
- High School Equivalency (145-164)
- College Ready (165-174)
- College + Credit (175+)

**1,054 Total  
RLA Tests Attempted**  
Average Passing RLA Score: 154

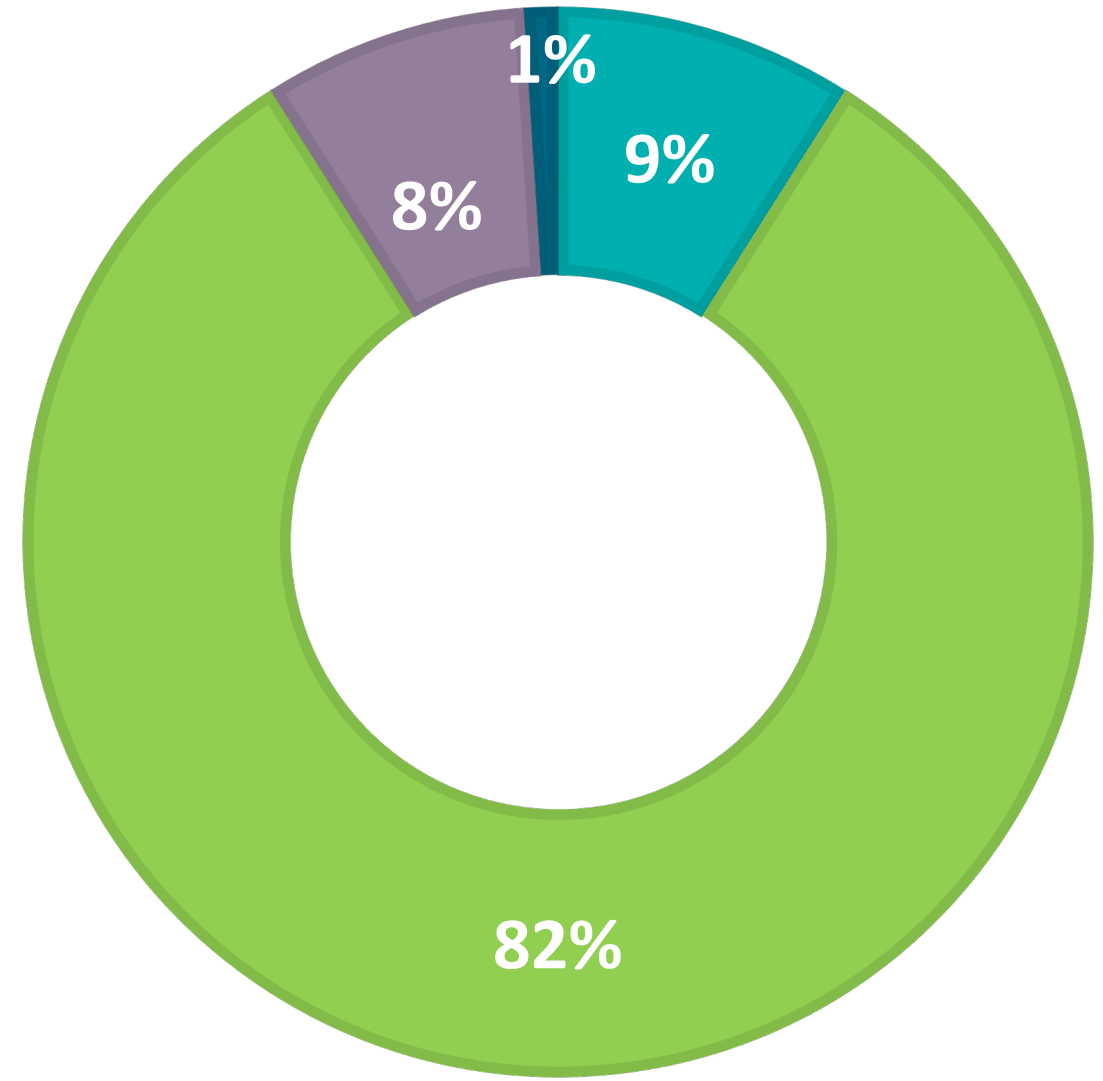




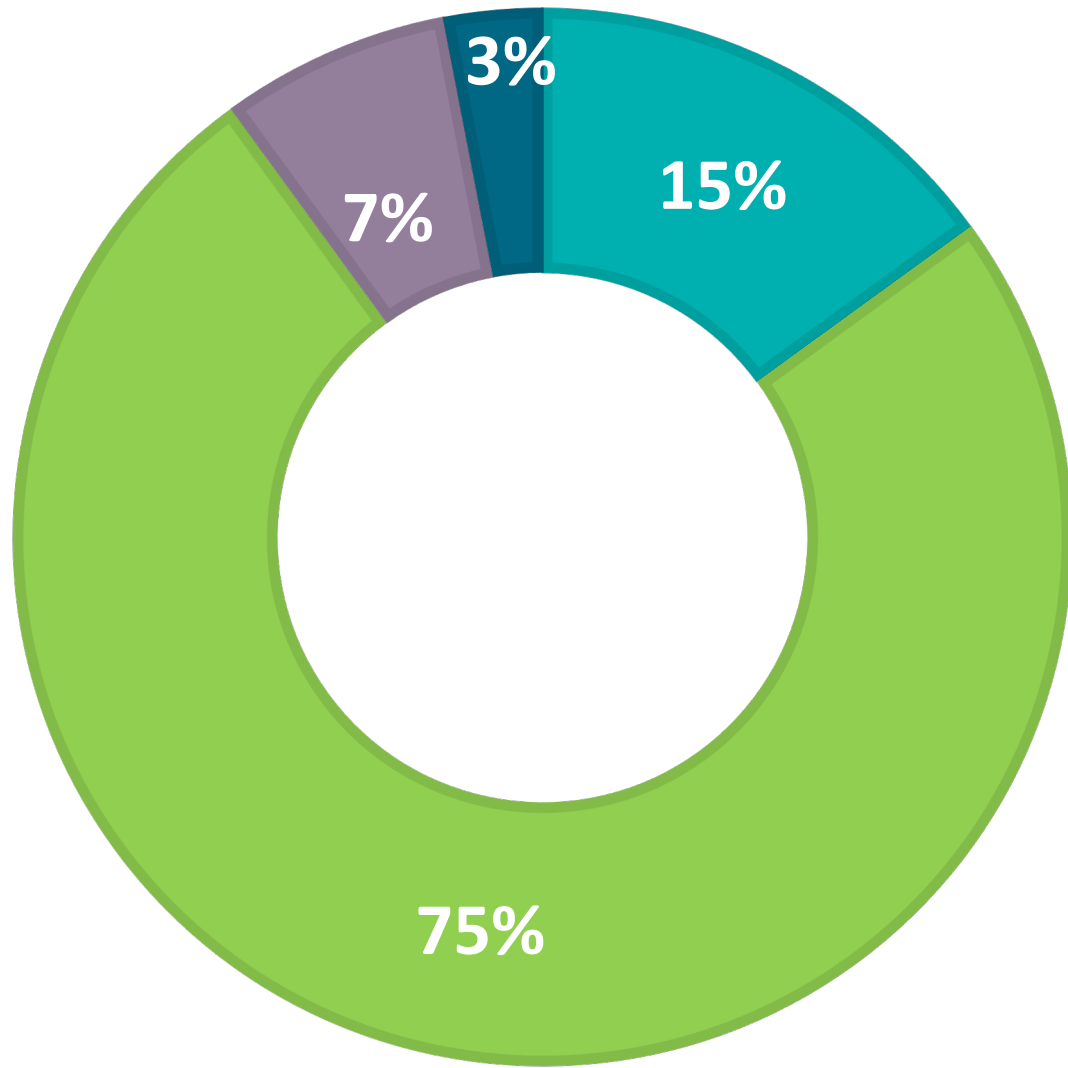
# 863 Total Science Tests Attempted

Average Passing Science Score: 155

- Non-passing Attempts
- High School Equivalency (145-164)
- College Ready (165-174)
- College + Credit (175+)







# SCIENCE



# SOCIAL STUDIES

## 1,002 Total Social Studies Tests Attempted

Average Passing Social Studies Score: 155

-  Non-passing Attempts
-  High School Equivalency (145-164)
-  College Ready (165-174)
-  College + Credit (175+)



# PRESENTED BY:



# RESOURCES



[GED.com Official Website](#)

[SD DOE High School Equivalency](#)

[SD DLR Adult Education and Literacy Programs](#)

[South Dakota State Library – HSE Resources](#)

# HELP



[How to Create a GED® Account](#)

[GED® Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Official Student “BlogGED” from GEDTS™](#)

[South Dakota Specific GED® Requirements](#)

# CONTACTS



Kristin Larson

GED® State Administrator

[GED@state.sd.us](mailto:GED@state.sd.us)

605-773-4726