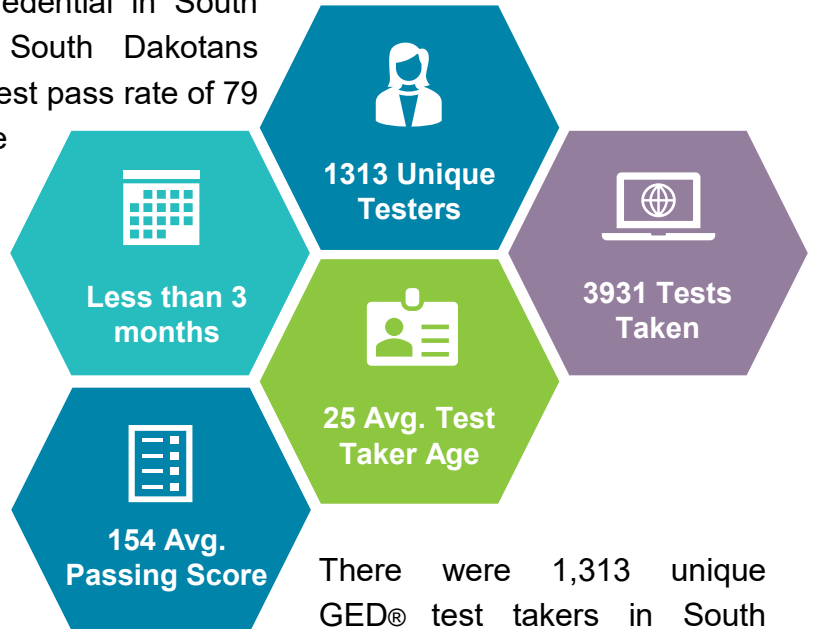



2025 High School Equivalency South Dakota Quick Facts

590 people earned their GED® credential in South Dakota in 2025. Once again, South Dakotans outpaced their peers with a GED® Test pass rate of 79 percent, versus the national average of 74 percent. In total, 3,931 tests were completed by test takers hoping to earn their GED® credential.



590 
Credential Earners

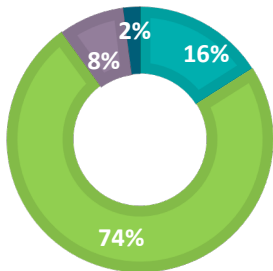
79% 
SD Pass Rate

850 
1st Time Testers

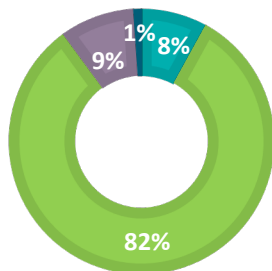
There were 1,313 unique GED® test takers in South Dakota in 2025, including 850 first time testers. More than half of these test takers (53 percent) took less than three months to earn their GED® credential with an average passing score of 154. South Dakotans continue to score higher and see higher pass rates on all four content tests than the national average.

Testing Data by Subject Area

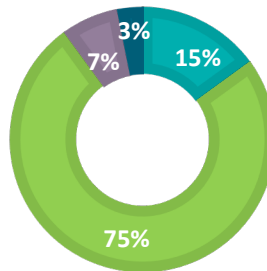
REASONING THROUGH LANGUAGE ARTS (RLA)



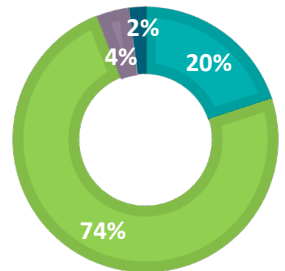
SCIENCE



SOCIAL STUDIES



MATH



■ Non-passing Attempts (144) ↓

■ High School Equivalency (145-164)

■ College Ready (165-174)

■ College + Credit (175+)

The GED® Credential

Originally 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, the GED® credential is the only high school equivalency credential offered in South Dakota.

72,000+ South Dakota GED® graduates and counting

Over 45% of GED® grads enroll in postsecondary training within 3 years

98% of postsecondary and employers accept the GED® credential

South Dakotans with a high school diploma or a high school equivalency (HSE) credential like the GED® credential, earn on average **\$10,463 more per year** than those without. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, twice as many jobs are available for those with at least a high school diploma or GED than another other education level.

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2024/article/education-level-and-openings-2023-33.htm>
https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/publications/labor_market_reports/workforce_report_2023.pdf

DID YOU KNOW?



UNDERSTANDING THE TEST

The GED® Test measures individual's knowledge comparable to a traditional high school graduate. GED® earners are just as prepared to enter the workforce, launch a career, or

enter postsecondary degree or training programs as their traditional high school graduate counterparts. Students must earn a minimum score of 145 to pass each of the GED® subtests before earning their credential.

