

## South Dakota's GED Credentialing™ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Test takers

Effective January 1, 2014, South Dakota will transition its credentialing process from the issuance of paper transcripts and GED® certificates to a paperless, web-based credentialing system. As with any new process, there will be changes and questions. These FAQs will assist GED® test takers to prepare for this change.

### What is GED Credentialing™?

GED Credentialing™ is a full-service program which fulfills requests for GED® transcripts and certificates. The service includes fulfillment for new graduates and graduates who received their credential prior to 2014.

### What does GED Credentialing™ mean to me?

By using GED Credentialing™, you will get quick and easy access to duplicate transcripts and official South Dakota GED® certificates. Services will include

**Same-day delivery:** Secure electronic transcripts are delivered to your email as soon as you have passed the 2014 GED® test.

**Forwarding:** You can easily forward your electronic transcript directly to schools and employers who request it.

**Choice:** You can choose to receive your transcript and certificate in either a printed or electronic format.

**First One's Free:** You will get a free initial certificate and transcript after you pass the 2014 GED® test. There is a fee of \$15 for each additional request.

### How do I get my credentials if I took the GED® test before 2014?

Effective January 1, 2014, you will access your credentials at <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/gedrequest-a-transcript>

This service will include

**Same-day delivery:** If a match is found in the database, your electronic transcript will be delivered on the same day. If a match is not found right away, a manual search will be done, and it may take a few days to fulfill the request. The test taker will be notified when this situation arises.

**Forwarding:** You can easily forward your electronic transcript directly to schools and employers who request it.

**Choice:** You can choose to receive your transcript and certificate in a printed or electronic format.

### **What does GED Credentialing™ cost?**

You will receive your first transcript and certificate for free after passing the GED® test. For each additional request for a transcript or certificate, the individual or organization who makes the request (e.g., student, employer, school, employment verification firm) pays a \$15 fee per document.

### **Can I use GED Credentialing™ to order one document and obtain the other from the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation?**

No. GED Credentialing™ is an all-inclusive service. All GED® transcripts and certificates must be requested through GED Credentialing™. This includes those GED® tests taken prior to January 1, 2014.

### **Is the GED credential I receive from GED® Credentialing™ a national credential?**

No. GED Credentialing™ fulfills requests for South Dakota's GED® certificates and the Smart Transcript through the GED® Testing Service. South Dakota remains the issuing agency, and the certificate features South Dakota official signatures and design.

### **What do I receive from GED Credentialing™ after I pass my 2014 GED® test?**

As soon as you pass the 2014 GED® test, you will receive a secure, electronic PDF document delivered to your email that contains your Smart Transcript and certificate. Electronic versions of the certificate include a link to order a professionally printed South Dakota GED® certificate free of charge.

### **What is a Smart Transcript?**

The Smart Transcript is an electronic transcript that not only shares your scores, but also includes links to the GED Credentialing™ [Web site](#) (which will go live January 1, 2014) with additional information regarding what the GED® test measures, what the scores mean, and what skills you demonstrated on the test. This includes information about earning a GED® Passing Score and the GED® Passing Score with Honors.

### **How soon after completing the test will I receive my Smart Transcript and certificate?**

As soon as your test is scored, typically within hours of completing the final test, you will receive your Smart Transcript and certificate delivered straight to the email address you provided when you signed up for MyGED™.

### **Will I receive a Smart Transcript if I took my test before January 1, 2014?**

Yes. GED Credentialing™ uses Smart Transcripts to fulfill all transcript requests. Smart Transcripts are customized based on the GED® test series and explain the scoring and types of content tested in the 2014 GED® test and older versions of the GED® test.

### **How do I request transcripts from GED® testing done prior to January 1, 2014?**

You can access the Web site at <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/gedrequest-a-transcript> (which will go live January 1, 2014) to easily and securely order your transcript and certificate for testing done prior to January 1, 2014.

### **How far back in time does this historical information exist?**

With a few exceptions, GED Credentialing™ has South Dakota's test takers' data dating back to the 1940s.

### **Can I send my transcript and certificate to colleges and employers through GED Credentialing?**

Yes. You can forward the free electronic transcript you receive in your email inbox directly to potential colleges and employers.

### **Will the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation continue to handle phone or email requests for transcripts and certificates?**

No. All requests for transcripts and certificates must be handled through GED Credentialing™.

### **Are my electronic transcripts and certificates secure?**

Yes. The electronic delivery system uses GED Credentialing's patented Blue Ribbon™ Security system which is more secure than delivering a paper copy through the mail.

### **What security system is used to protect the integrity of my Smart Transcripts and certificates?**

GED Credentialing™ uses Blue Ribbon™ Security. Blue Ribbon™ Security guarantees that transcripts or certificates you send out have not been altered. The recipient can easily assess the integrity of a transcript or certificate by noting a blue ribbon indicating the document is authentic and trustworthy or a red X indicating the document has been altered.

### **Do colleges and employers know about the Blue Ribbon™ Security?**

Yes. GED Credentialing™ currently works with over 4,000 colleges, and over a third of all high school certificates are delivered by them using this security process. South Dakota Colleges can sign up for FREE Receive service to easily obtain the secure, electronic credentials. Every electronic transcript will contain a cover letter explaining the Blue Ribbon™ Security to colleges and employers.

#### **What do I do if I do not have Internet access to order my credentials?**

A toll-free number will be available for you to call and receive phone support to order duplicate transcripts and GED® certificates.

#### **How do I sign up or get more information about GED Credentialing™?**

If you are interested in learning more about GED Credentialing™ and the Smart Transcript, visit [www.GEDtestingservice.com](http://www.GEDtestingservice.com).