

# The GED® Credential

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. It is the only high school equivalency credential issued 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) like the GED® credential, earn on average **\$10,463 more per year** than those who have less than a high school education. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are also nearly twice as many jobs 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](https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/publications/labor_market_reports/workforce_report_2023.pdf)

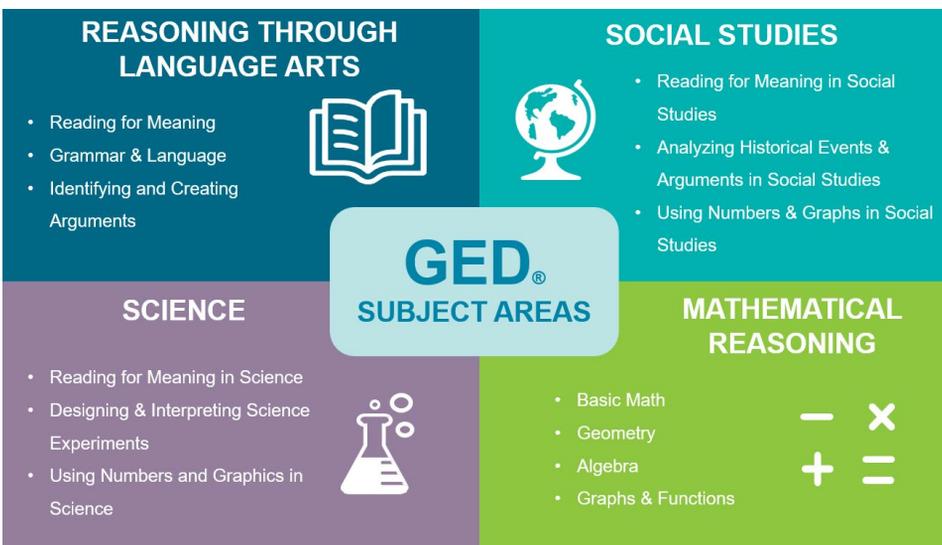
## DID YOU KNOW?



## UNDERSTANDING THE TEST

The GED® Test measures a person has gained the same or “equivalent” knowledge of a traditional high school graduate. GED® earners are just as prepared to enter the workforce, launch a career, or

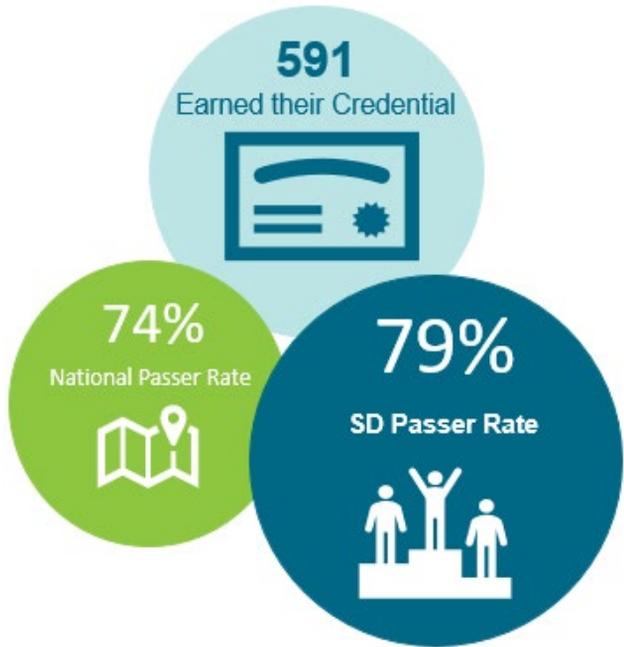
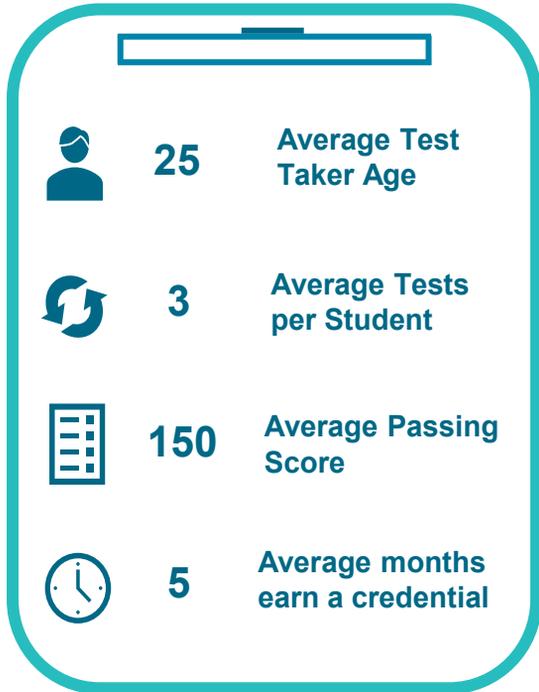
enter postsecondary degree or training programs as their traditional high school graduate counterparts. Students must earn a minimum score of 145 to pass each of the GED® subtests before earning their credential.



# 2024 GED®

## South Dakota Quick Facts

591 people earned their GED® credential in South Dakota in 2024. South Dakotans are passing the GED® Test at a rate of 79% versus the national average of 74%.

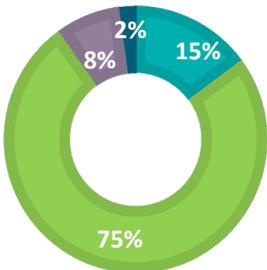


In 2024, 1,278 South Dakotans were working toward earning their credential with 806 of those being first time test takers. The average age of test takers was 25 years old, and the average number of tests taken by each unique test taker was 3. South Dakotans scored an average of 150 on their GED® exams and took just over 5 months to earn their credential.

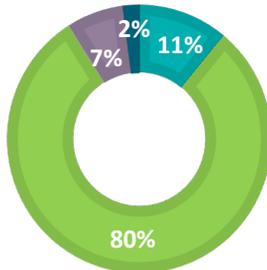


GED® test takers must score a minimum of 145 out of 200 on each of the exam's four subtests to pass. Scores between 165-174 are considered having the skills and knowledge to be college ready, and scores above 175 may even qualify students to earn college credit. South Dakota test takers, consistently score at or above the national average on all four subtests.

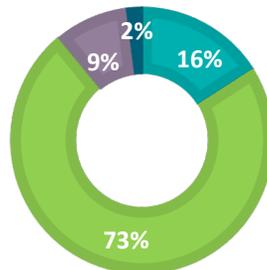
### REASONING THROUGH LANGUAGE ARTS (RLA)



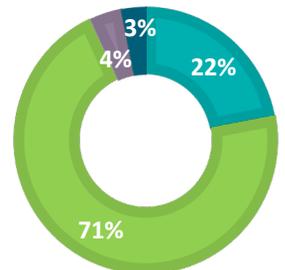
### SCIENCE



### SOCIAL STUDIES



### MATH



■ Non-passing Attempts (144 ↓) ■ High School Equivalency (145-164) ■ College + Credit (175+) ■ College Ready (165-174)

