

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

GED Testing Service Announces Passing Score for GED Test Changes

What are the new score levels for high school equivalency? What do I need to score to pass and earn a State of Florida High School Diploma (a high school equivalency diploma)?

- GED Testing Service® (GEDTS®) now recommends a high school equivalency score of 145 for each of the four content areas for the issuance of a diploma; the previous recommendation was a score of 150 on each area.
- On February 18, 2016, the State Board of Education approved the changes recommended by GEDTS®; the rule becomes effective in late March. Until the effective date of the rule, the passing scores required for the State of Florida High School Diploma continue to be 150 on each of the four content areas. After the rule becomes effective, those who have earned a minimum of 145 on each of the four subject area tests since January 2, 2014, will be granted a State of Florida High School Diploma.
- Individuals who have not qualified for a diploma but have taken a subject test and achieved a score between 145 and 149 since January 2, 2014, will have their records updated to reflect a passing score on the subject test.

When will the change to the passing scores take effect in Florida?

- The State Board of Education approved the passing score changes at the February 18, 2016, meeting, and the new passing scores will take effect in late March.
- GED® test takers and educators can expect to see the changes implemented in state and GEDTS systems (transcripts, diploma, state and federal data reporting systems) in late March. A candidate's passing status will be automatically updated and credentials processed when the changes become effective.

Why was the passing score adjusted?

Based on extensive analysis of GED® test-taker and GED® graduate data and discussions with policymakers and elected officials in a number of states over the past two years, GEDTS® determined that the new score levels are the best representation of the full range of abilities of today's high school graduates (from those meeting the minimum graduation standards, to those that are college ready and beyond).

Will candidates who scored 145 or higher on all four content areas since January 1, 2014, be eligible to receive a State of Florida High School Diploma? What should these candidates do now?

- Yes, a State of Florida High School Diploma will be awarded to eligible candidates after the effective date of the rule in late March.
- Candidates who qualified for a diploma under this provision will receive an email notification about their status change and will receive emails about their diploma and transcript shortly after the rule becomes effective in late March.
- Candidates should log in to GED.com and review the email, phone and address information in the profile. The email information on the profile will be used to notify candidates of important information on how to access their credentials. Candidates must contact the call center at (877) 392-6433 if they cannot recall the email used to login or use the “Forgot Password” link if they cannot recall the password for their account.

If a candidate has scored 145 or higher on one, two or three subject tests, will the performance status be updated to passing on those particular tests even though a diploma has not yet been earned? What should these candidates do now?

- Yes, any subject area test score 145 or higher will be updated to reflect a passing score at MyGED™ after the effective date of the rule in late March.
- Candidates should log in to GED.com and review the email, phone and address information in the profile. The email information on the profile will be used to notify candidates of important information about the passing status. Candidates must contact the call center at (877) 392-6433 if they cannot recall the email used to login or use the “Forgot Password” link if they cannot recall the password for their account.

Should candidates retest if they have a score of 145-149 on any or all test modules?

- The passing score of 150 will be in effect until late March. On the effective date of rule, scores between 145 and 149 will be updated to reflect a passing score on the subject test.
- Each candidate will need to assess the time by which he/she needs to earn a diploma.
- A candidate’s decision on whether to retest should take into consideration any deadlines he/she must meet for employment or postsecondary education plans.

Have the score levels for the GED Ready™ predictor tests changed?

- Yes, GEDTS® has adjusted the score ranges for the GED Ready™ test for each of the four content areas as of January 26, 2016:
 - Likely to Pass - Green (145-200)
 - Too Close to Call - Yellow (134-144)
 - Not Likely to Pass - Red (100-133)
- GED Ready™ score prediction is valid within 60 days of taking the operational GED® test; this should be considered when using the prediction ranges.
- For Florida candidates who are seeking a diploma prior to the implementation of the new recommended cut score, the score ranges viewed on a GED Ready™ score report may not be fully predictive against a passing score of 150.

If a school district or other education provider, such as a correctional institution, requires a certain score on the GED Ready™ before authorizing a test, how do the score level changes for the GED Ready affect these polices?

- School districts that require a specific GED Ready™ score prior to authorizing a 16 or 17 year old to take the GED® Test should review any underage testing requirements that include GED Ready™ score ranges.
- Any other provider, including those in correctional facilities, should also review current testing requirements that include GED Ready™ score ranges.

In addition to the new recommendation for the high school equivalency score performance level, GEDTS® has also announced College Ready and College Ready +Credit score levels. What do those performance levels mean in Florida?

- The State of Florida High School Diploma is a high school equivalency diploma and does not include the additional score performance designations.
- Since admissions policies vary widely in post-secondary institutions, candidates should contact the college or university's admissions office for details about the use of these additional performance levels.

Will a candidate who retested after earning a 145 before this policy change be eligible for a refund?

- No, while prior scores may be grandfathered for the issuance of the State of Florida High School Diploma, the passing standard at the time of the test administration was 150.