GED TESTING FACT SHEET

About the GED® Tests

- The GED Tests provide adults who did not complete a formal high school program the opportunity to certify their attainment of high school-level academic knowledge and skills
- The tests are field-tested and normed on graduating high school seniors before becoming final test forms
- **Only 60%** of graduating high school seniors would pass the GED Tests on their first attempt
- The GED Test battery comprises **five content area assessments**:
  - Language Arts, Reading
  - Language Arts, Writing
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
- The GED Tests are currently offered only in a paper-pencil format at Official GED Testing Centers – **they cannot be taken online**
- Completing the entire test battery takes just over **7 hours**

Versions and Editions of the GED Tests

- **U.S. English-language version**
- **Canadian English-language version** (similar to the U.S. version, but with Canadian-specific Social Studies content)
- **Spanish-language version** (largely a direct translation of the U.S. GED Tests)
- **French-language version** (largely a translation of the Canadian English-language GED Tests, with writing and reading based on Quebec standards)
- Audio and Large-Print editions for all versions
- Braille (all versions except French-language)

Earning a Credential

- To pass the GED Tests, a test-taker must earn a minimum total standard **score of 2250** on all 5 tests and a minimum standard score of **410** on each content area test
- Higher passing standard scores may be established by individual states, provinces or programs (collectively known as "jurisdictions")
- Each jurisdiction awards and determines the name of the credential. Proportion of U.S. jurisdictions awarding:
  - Diploma: 63%
  - Certificate: 31%
  - Other (credential and endorsement): 6%

About GED Testing Service®

- GED Testing Service develops, delivers, and safeguards the GED Tests; analyzes the testing program and its participants; and develops policies, procedures, and programs to ensure equal access to the tests

- The GED Testing Service partners with the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, the Canadian provinces and territories, the insular areas, the U.S. military, correctional facilities, the veterans administration hospitals, and Prometric™ international testing centers to administer the tests and award credentials

History of the GED Tests

- **1942:** American Council on Education® (ACE) was commissioned to measure high school instructional outcomes for military personnel and veterans who had not completed high school
- **1947:** New York became first state to make tests available to non-veteran adults
- **1974:** GED credential issued in all 50 U.S. states

- There have been four **GED Tests Series**
  - 1942 Series
  - 1978 Series
  - 1988 Series
  - 2002 Series

Who Accepts the GED Credential

- Credentials are issued by jurisdictional partners
- **98% of colleges and universities** that require a high school diploma accept the GED credential *(Annual Survey of Colleges 2007. Copyright ® 2007. The College Board.)*
- **96% of companies** accept applicants with a GED credential for jobs requiring a high school degree *(Society for Human Resource Management, 2002)*

Over 17 million people have earned a GED credential since 1943

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Public/Private Partnership of GEDTS

GED Testing Service:

- Develops the tests
- Leases the tests
- Establishes minimum age requirements
- Establishes minimum passing score requirements
- Ensures policies to safeguard the tests

Jurisdictions:

- Awards the diploma/certificate
- Determines the name of the credential
- Establishes testing eligibility
- Sets testing fees
- Establishes any preparation requirements
- Establishes minimum passing score requirements if higher than those established by GEDTS

Corporate Partners:

- Steck-Vaughn: Distributes the Official GED Practice Tests for the 2002 Series
- Prometric™ Inc.: Administers GED Tests internationally
- Kentucky Educational Television (KET): Produces *GED Connection* preparation material

Renowned GED Credential Recipients

- Ruth Ann Minner, *Governor of Delaware*
- Mary Lou Retton, *Olympic Medal-Winner*
- Dave Thomas, *Founder of Wendy's*
- F. Story Musgrave, *NASA Shuttle Astronaut*
- Bill Cosby, *Comedian and Actor*
- Honorable Greg Mathis, *U.S. District Court Judge*
- Gretchen Wilson, *Country Music Musician*
- Richard Carmona, *Former U.S. Surgeon General*
- Michael J. Fox, *Actor and Advocate*
- Wally Amos, *Founder of Famous Amos Cookies*

There are over 3,400 Official GED Testing Centers worldwide

GED Testing Numbers for 2009

Test-taker Statistics:

- **788,314** candidates (adults who have taken at least one of the five tests)
- **683,519** completers (candidates who have taken all five tests)
- **472,913** passers (completers who have passed all five tests and earned a combined minimum score of 2250 and a minimum of 410 on each content area test)
- **69%** of all completers passed the GED Test battery

- U.S. states with **highest testing volumes** (2009):
  - **California**: 58,136 candidates
  - **Texas:** 54,547
  - New York: 53,063
  - Florida: 49,546
  - Georgia: 33,467

- **Canadian** test-takers in 2009:
  - **14,137** candidates
  - **1.8%** of all GED test-takers

- **71%** of all GED test-takers in 2009 had reached grade 10 or higher in their high school education

- Percentage of U.S. test-takers by **ethnicity (2009):**

White	50.5%
African American	24.4%
Hispanic Origin	20.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.5%
Asian	1.8%
Pacific Islander/ Hawaiian	0.7%

Where to Find More Information

- To take the first step toward the GED Test: www.GEDtest.org/start
- To find your local testing center: www.GEDtest.org/locator
- To contact your local GED Administrator: www.GEDtest.org/administrators
- To find out more about GED Test preparation: www.GEDtest.org/prep
- To join our group on Facebook: www.GEDtest.org/facebook

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Additional copies are available in quantities of 50 per order from the GED Fulfillment Service. Telephone (301) 632-6758.