





Dear High School Equivalency Candidate,

As you prepare for the challenge of earning your high school equivalency certificate, it's important that you have the most correct information at your fingertips. You deserve the best chance to earn a credential that can bring you future education and career opportunities.

Part of keeping you informed is reminding you that you are not earning "your GED"." You are earning a "high school equivalency certificate" issued by your state. Only a state or tribal education agency can grant a high school equivalency certificate.

In the past, the GED® test was the only option for states to measure a student's high school equivalent academic skills. However, in recent years several states have adopted alternative tests that enable them to provide low-cost testing options to you that are both accessible and meet their standards for a high school equivalency certificate. Since 2013, the HiSET® exam from Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the TASC Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ from McGraw-Hill Education CTB have been adopted by numerous states because they are more affordable and more widely accessible than the GED® test.

Today, 20 states across the country have chosen options either in place of or in addition to the GED® test to help students earn their state-issued high school equivalency certificate. For example, Massachusetts now uses only the HiSET® exam, while Indiana uses only the TASC test. Other states have chosen to offer all three tests — the GED® test, the HISET® exam and the TASC test — and let the test taker decide which one they wish to use. What's important to remember is that all three tests allow someone to earn their high school equivalency credential from their state.

We are eager to clarify terminology that could be confusing and, most important, could be discouraging. How we talk about high school equivalency may seem trivial, but it is important to us that students like you are not discouraged if your state discontinues use of the GED® test. We want to remind you that in many places you can still earn your high school equivalency certificate through other testing programs, such as the HiSET® and TASC programs offered by your state.

So, together we are sharing this message with you to make sure you have all the information you need to make the best decision for your future. It is our mission to help you achieve your education and career goals, and we wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely,

National Executive Director, ETS High School Equivalency Test Educational Testing Service

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