



TEST
ASSESSING
SECONDARY
COMPLETION™

Frequently Asked Questions about the High School Equivalency Exam (HSE) in New York State (NYS)

Which High School Equivalency Exam is used in New York State?

New York uses the Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ – TASC test as the High School Equivalency (HSE) exam.

Why doesn't NYS use the GED® test anymore?

Significant changes in the GED testing program created the opportunity to consider other HSE tests that were more affordable and available to more people. NYS needed a HSE test that (1) took a phased-in approach to testing to revised national educational standards, (2) would be available on both paper and via the computer, and (3) would be competitively priced. Consequently, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) issued a Request for Proposal. NYSED then awarded a contract to a national vendor for a new national HSE test, called the Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ – TASC test, which met these requirements.

What is the TASC test?

The TASC test is a national test that measures national educational standards. The TASC test has five subtests (Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies). It takes approximately eight-and-a-half hours to complete, and is usually administered over two days.

Where can I test?

NYSED has over 100 public test centers located across the state. You can find a test center near you on our website: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/hse-testing-maps>

How much will it cost to take the test?

If you live in New York State, the test is free.

How can I prepare?

You may want to enroll in a free HSE preparation program, which you can find on the NYSED website: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/hse-prep-programs-maps>

There are also free instructional materials, which you can find here:
<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/aepp/new-york-state-online-media-connection>

The TASC test website provides sample questions and other information, including study materials: <http://www.tasctest.com/resources.html>

Can I test again if I fail?

You can take the test up to three times in any calendar year. The retests are also free for failed subtests.

I took the GED and passed parts of the test. Do I have to take the parts that I passed over again?

No. NYS credits you for the GED subtests that you passed.

Can I combine the passing GED scores with the TASC test scores to get my HSE diploma?

Yes. If you took the GED® test between 2002-2013, any passing subtest scores will count toward earning your diploma. For more details about “grandfathering” old GED® test scores, see the document titled “Grandfathering made permanent and other changes to the HSE diploma” at the bottom of the page at this link: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/what-hsetasc-test>

How will I find out if I will get a HSE diploma in NYS?

Your test is scored by the vendor, the company that produces the TASC test. The vendor then sends the scores to NYSED. If you pass, NYSED sends you a NYSED HSE diploma with a transcript of your scores. Similarly, if you do not pass, NYSED will send you a transcript with your scores, but you may then request to retest on the parts of the test that you did not pass. You can also check our website to see if you have earned a diploma: <https://eservices.nysed.gov/ged/>

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What is GED™ Grandfathering?

Grandfathering GED® test scores: A candidate may use up to four (4) passing GED® sub-tests (score of 410 or above) taken between 2002-2013 to count towards earning a New York State High School Equivalency Diploma. Each TASC™ sub-test that the candidate passes will be posted on the candidate's transcript. If the candidate does not pass the TASC™ sub-test but passed the same GED® sub-test, the GED® score will be accepted as a passing score. If a candidate has already passed all five (5) GED® sub-tests but did not attain the minimum total score of 2250, such candidate must pass at least one of the TASC™ sub-tests to obtain a New York State High School Equivalency Diploma

In short, a candidate who has previously passed parts of the GED **does not** need to retake those portions on the TASC. They **should, however, take the corresponding TASC subtests they did not pass on the GED.**

This also means these previous GED examinees **are not required** to sit for the entire TASC exam; again, just the subsections they did not pass previously.