

Contact: Danielle Wilson | Public Affairs
publicaffairs@GED.com | 202/805.1835

December 18, 2018

TEN STATES WHERE PRISONS EXCEED THE NATIONAL GED PASS RATE NUMBER OF CORRECTIONS TESTERS AND STATE PASS RATES CONTINUE TO GROW

WASHINGTON, DC — In 2017 ten states across the country far exceeded the national GED® pass rate of 79%, and the number of graduates earning a credential in a Corrections facility grew 24% nationally.

The ten states boasting the highest pass rates in prisons include: Hawaii 95%, Illinois 93%, South Carolina 90%, South Dakota 90%, Minnesota 89%, Colorado 88%, Oregon 87%, Nebraska 87%, North Dakota 87% and Alaska 87%.

The number of Corrections testers rose in 2017 to 59,776, an increase of 24% from the prior year.

The GED credential is receiving more attention related to Corrections as more national conversations are had about the positive impact education and workforce training has in reducing recidivism among offenders. Since the launch of the updated 2014 GED test program, GED graduates are attending college programs, enrolling more quickly, and are more prepared than ever to succeed in college and beyond.

GED Testing Service found that 45% of GED grads enrolled in a college certificate or degree program within three years, 35% do so within one year of earning a GED credential, and 90% of those grads persisted by re-enrolling from one semester to the next.

According to research done by the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, over a five year period (2013-2017) the national recidivism rate was 42% for adults. The research also found that within the state of North Dakota the recidivism rate was only 8.4% for adults that received a GED or High School Diploma.

“The GED program boosts their confidence so much, a lot of them had a bad upbringing and they never had anyone believe in them,” said Rebecca Deierling, Corrections educator with the North Dakota Department of Corrections. “A lot of the students say when it comes to education they feel great, like they’re a real person and not in prison.”

Many GED graduates that earned their credentials while incarcerated are pursuing

postsecondary education and career training programs. Graduates like James, who earned his GED while at The Fayette State Correctional Institution in La Belle, Pennsylvania, are actively encouraging others to earn their credential while in correctional facilities.

“Obtaining my GED while being incarcerated allowed me to realize that even though trials and tribulations may overcome you, hard work and dedication always leads you down the right path as long as you realize there is still a path. Having my GED has opened doors for me not only inside the DOC, but on the outside as well. Having my GED has now allowed me to pursue jobs inside the DOC I would have never been able to get without it.”

GED Testing Service has made an ongoing commitment to meet the needs of Corrections educators and students. Through a number of channels including the GED Corrections forum group, Corrections educators and state administrators regularly provide feedback related to Corrections testing. This year GED Testing Service also debuted a professional development track that addresses the specific needs of educators teaching and administering the GED test in Correctional facilities.

More information about the GED test program can be found at GED.com and specific information related to GED Corrections test preparation and administration is [available here](#).

###

About GED Testing Service

The GED test has opened doors to better jobs and college programs for more than 20 million graduates since 1942. The GED test is accepted by virtually all U.S. colleges and employers. As the creator of the one official GED test, GED Testing Service has a responsibility to ensure that the program continues to be a reliable and valuable pathway to a better life for the millions of adults without a high school diploma. GED Testing Service is a joint venture between the American Council on Education and Pearson.