

***EMBARGOED UNTIL MARCH 4, 2020**

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NEW JERSEY CHANGES PASSING SCORE FOR THE GED® TEST STUDENTS WILL NOW PASS WITH RECOMMENDED NATIONAL SCORE OF 145 INSTEAD OF 150

TRENTON, N.J. — On March 4 the New Jersey Department of Education adopted the recommended GED test passing score of 145. Prior to this policy change GED students were required to earn a score of 150 on all four GED test subjects—Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA), Math, Science and Social Studies.

In 2016 the national recommended GED passing score was changed from 150 to 145. Also introduced were the GED College Ready (165-174) and GED College Ready + Credit (175-200) [score levels](#), that were created to help move students more quickly into and through college certificate and degree programs. New Jersey is the final state to adopt the enhanced scoring levels.

With this scoring adjustment more than 400 New Jersey residents will now be awarded their New Jersey High School Diplomas. These students can now move directly into jobs, career training or college programs. More than 1,500 test-takers will have a status change and pass one or more GED test subjects, and be at least one step closer to earning their diploma.

“A change in the GED passing criteria from 150 to 145 would positively impact my students. I have had many students achieve a score of 147 or 149 and, under the present passing criteria, they have to retake the test to meet the current passing requirement. A change to 145, would positively impact the student’s career advancement, employment opportunities and their ability to further their advanced education,” said Valerie Oliva, adult education instructor at Brookdale Community College.

New Jersey GED testers that earned scores between 145 and 149 are expected to see their scores and passing status change automatically through their online GED.com accounts beginning on March 17. These students are advised to not retest on any GED test subjects in which they have previously scored between 145 and 149.

This adjusted score is the best representation of the full range of abilities of today's high school graduates, whether the person is meeting minimum graduation standards or ready for college

and beyond. GED Testing Service conducted extensive analysis of GED test taker and graduate data, and consulted with state policymakers to determine this score adjustment.

“We applaud this policy change. More New Jersey adult learners will be able to receive their hard-earned state diploma,” said CT Turner, Vice President of GED Testing Service. “Data have shown that GED grads at these score levels are more prepared than ever to enter and succeed in higher-level job training and college programs.”

According to GED Testing Service research, based on data from the National Student Clearinghouse, since 2014:

- More than 50% of GED graduates are enrolling in postsecondary education, and
- Persistence rates have dramatically improved—GED grads now have a re-enrollment rate of 90% vs 29% prior to the new GED testing program being introduced in 2014.

Additional information about the GED test program and outcomes can be found at GED.com.

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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.