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ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD APPROVES GED COLLEGE READY RECOMMENDATION NEW PATHWAY FOR ILLINOIS COLLEGE STUDENTS TO BYPASS REMEDIAL COURSES

WASHINGTON, DC — GED graduates who earn College Ready scores may be eligible to enroll in Illinois community colleges with a “remediation-free” status. The Illinois Community College Board recently approved a policy to encourage community college members to accept the GED College Ready score level.

Under this recommendation, students enrolling in participating community colleges across the state are eligible to bypass remediation using their GED Reading and Language Arts (RLA) and Mathematical Reasoning test scores to enroll in credit-bearing courses.

The [GED College Ready score level](#) indicates that the test taker has demonstrated the skills to start college-level courses and depending on the institution they may not have to take a placement test or any remedial courses in college.

[Elgin Community College](#), [Kankakee Community College](#) and [Joliet Junior College](#) have already implemented this recommendation, others are in the process of determining when and how they will implement them at their college or university.

“Preliminary course enrollment data shows that ECC students who completed the GED with a College Ready score of 165 or greater on the Reading and Language Arts test, and then enrolled in ECC’s first college-level English course, performed as well as or better than students who placed directly into this course through the College’s other placement testing methods (e.g., ACT score, Writing Placement test, SAT score, HS GPA, etc.),” said Elizabeth Hobson, Dean of Adult Education at Elgin Community College.

Since implementing this policy Elgin Community College has seen an increase in the number of GED graduates enrolling in their college’s programs.

Illinois joins a growing number of states that are utilizing the GED College Ready score level. The Illinois Community College Board’s recommendation that members accept the GED

College Ready score level creates an additional pathway for adult learners, moving students more quickly into and through degree programs.

Since the launch of the enhanced GED program in 2014 a higher percentage of graduates are attending college programs, enrolling more quickly, and are more prepared than ever to succeed in college and beyond. One statistic shows a meteoric increase in preparedness for college certificate and degree programs.

Research conducted by GED Testing Service, through a data match with the National Student Clearinghouse, revealed 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 enrolled persisted by re-enrolling from one semester to the next

“The most recent numbers are very exciting, especially when you compare the 90 percent persistence rate to the pre-2014 rate of 29 percent,” said Randy Trask, President of GED Testing Service. “Education and credentials beyond a GED diploma are the keys to unlocking opportunity for adult learners—opportunities for new career pathways, higher wages, and better quality of life.”

Illinois GED graduates are in a much stronger position to compete with traditional high school graduates, especially after earning a certificate or degree in addition to a GED credential. This is especially important as the vast majority of new jobs that will be created over the next two decades will require more than a high-school-level credential. An estimated 2.5 million new middle skill jobs (those that require post-high school education but not a four-year college degree) are expected to be added to the U.S. workforce, accounting for nearly 40 percent of all job growth.

More information about the GED test program can be found [here](#) and details about the GED College Ready score levels are available [here](#).

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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.