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2023 GED CONFERENCE

# Innovative GED Uses: An Option Program in North Dakota and Oregon

July 2023



# Welcome



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2023 GED CONFERENCE

# **Innovative GED Uses in North Dakota**

## **State Level Applications**

**Stanley Schauer Jr. July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**



# Introduction



GED +  
federal/state  
accountability

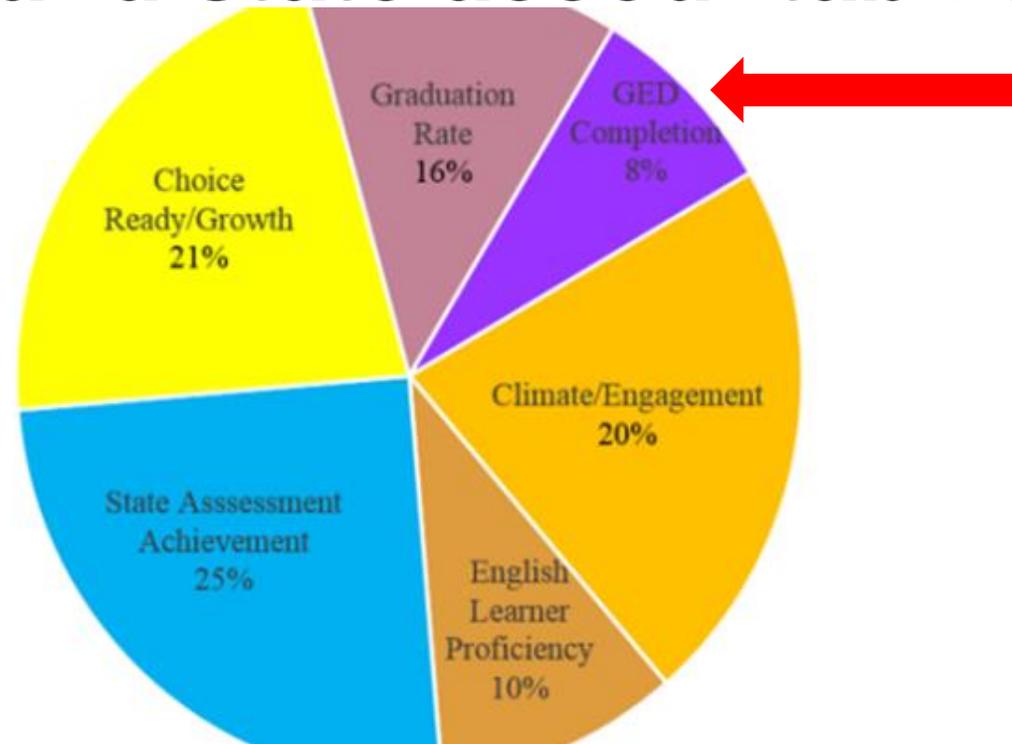


Option 2 in ND



GED data +  
federally-mandated  
public report card

# GED + federal and state accountability (high school)



## ND ESSA State Plan (2017)

*“North Dakota will change our definition of graduation rate to include GED and implement this in our state plan. A student obtaining their GED is a success story and a step in the right direction for their future.”*

# Passages from ND ESSA State Plan

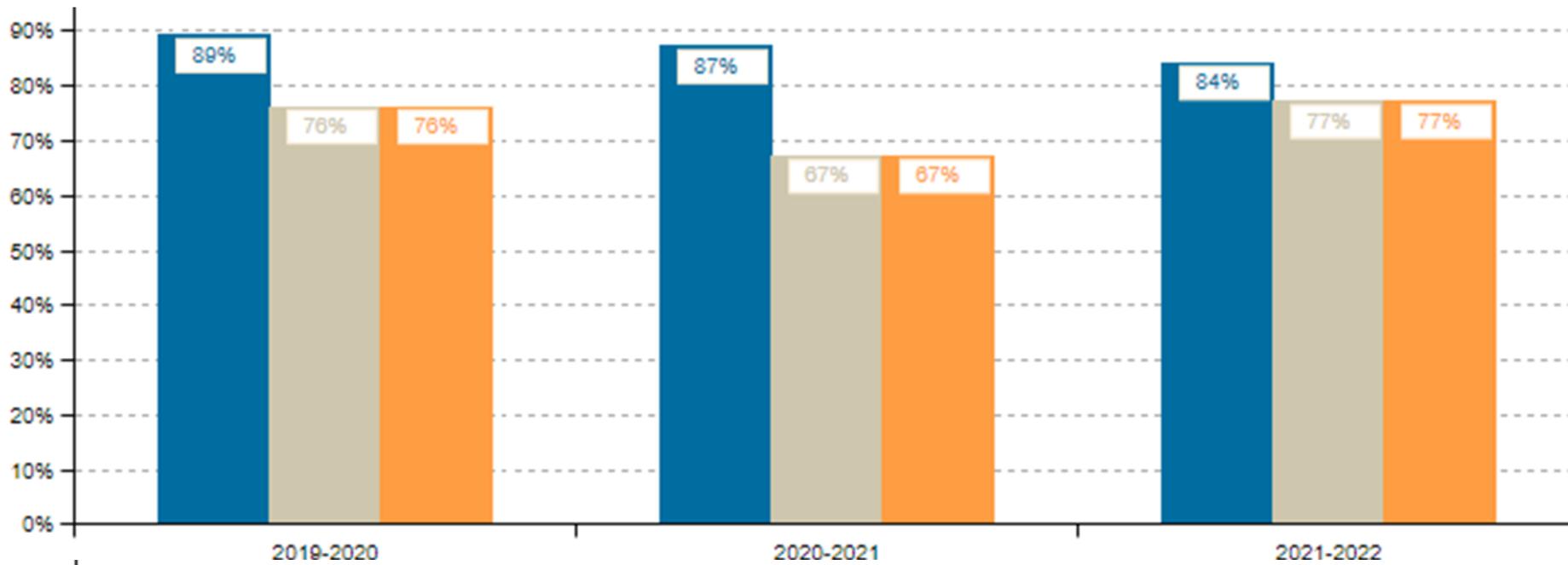
- *The North Dakota Accountability Index (NDAI) has a maximum composite value of 615 points.*
- *Schools earn points based on individual student performance results using the defined measures in the areas of:*
  - *achievement, student growth, student engagement, and English learner proficiency at the elementary level*
  - *achievement, choice ready, graduation rate, GED completion, student engagement, and English learner proficiency at the high school level*

# Passages from ND ESSA State Plan (cont'd)

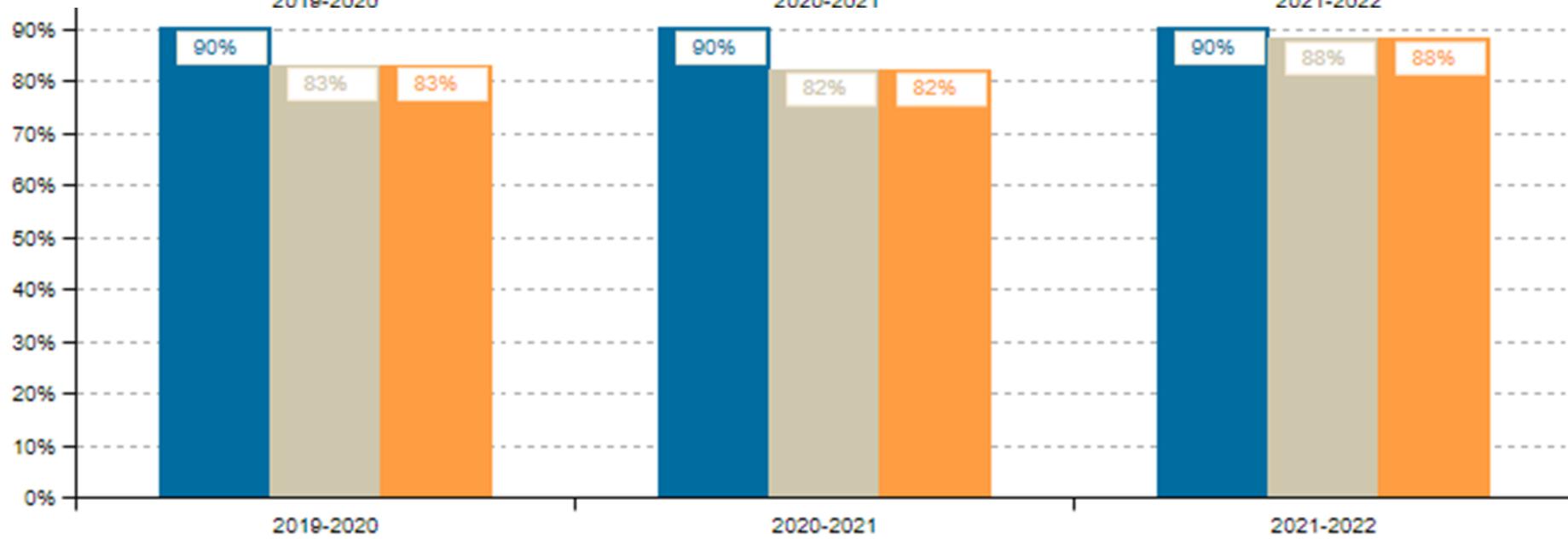
- *North Dakota's plan will also include the GED in our accountability system, separate from the graduation rate.*
- *A dropout who completes a North Dakota GED prior to the 22nd year will be credited to the home district as a graduate.*
- *GED graduates will account for up to 8% in the high school accountability system.*

# Passages from ND ESSA State Plan (cont'd)

- *North Dakota's GED Program plan will also include the GED as an indicator of graduation for schools that administer a GED program.*
- *The following to be allowed within the three graduation cohorts:*
  - *a dropout who completes a North Dakota GED prior to the 22nd year will be credited to the providing school as a graduate.*
  - *All schools and students have access to a GED program.*
  - *If no students in GED then index values are applied equally to Choice Ready and School Quality indicators.*



4 Year Grad Rate



GED Completer Rate

■ State ■ District ■ School

# GED + federal and state accountability

- Why is it important?
  - Having the GED mentioned in a State ESSA plan is rare; ND might be the only state or one of very few.
  - Two additional reasons:
    - Motivates high schools to work with/communicate with students who are planning on dropping or who are struggling (exposure)
    - Adult Education and GED Testing becomes an instant partner in accountability to be leveraged in important funding conversations

# Option 2 in ND

- [15.1-21-02.2 in ND Law](#), added in 2021. Modified the graduation requirements by added subsection 2 aka “Option 2.”
- Exact language:
  - *If approved by the board of a school district or nonpublic school, a school district or nonpublic school may develop eligibility criteria or programmatic requirements to allow a passing score on the relevant portions of the GED assessment to receive credit for the corresponding requirements of subdivisions “a” through “d” of subsection 1.*
- Partnered with a Senator to draft bill and make sure the intent is clear – that this is for students who are credit deficient and at-risk or soon to be at-risk of dropping out. Option 2 is for a small subset of students who want to be in school but essentially/mathematically cannot succeed with traditional credit recovery options.
- Article from a correctional/state placement school that implemented Option 2:
  - [A Different Path to a Diploma – KnowledgeWorks](#)

# Why is Option 2 important in ND?



K12 schools can:

- utilize GED testing (remain “legal” and allowable as student works towards a high school diploma)
- significantly increases exposure and familiarity.



Our public schools now are working with and learning from Adult Learning Centers on best methods for GED prep.

This opens communications for possible student hand-offs or referrals.



Obvious and most important:

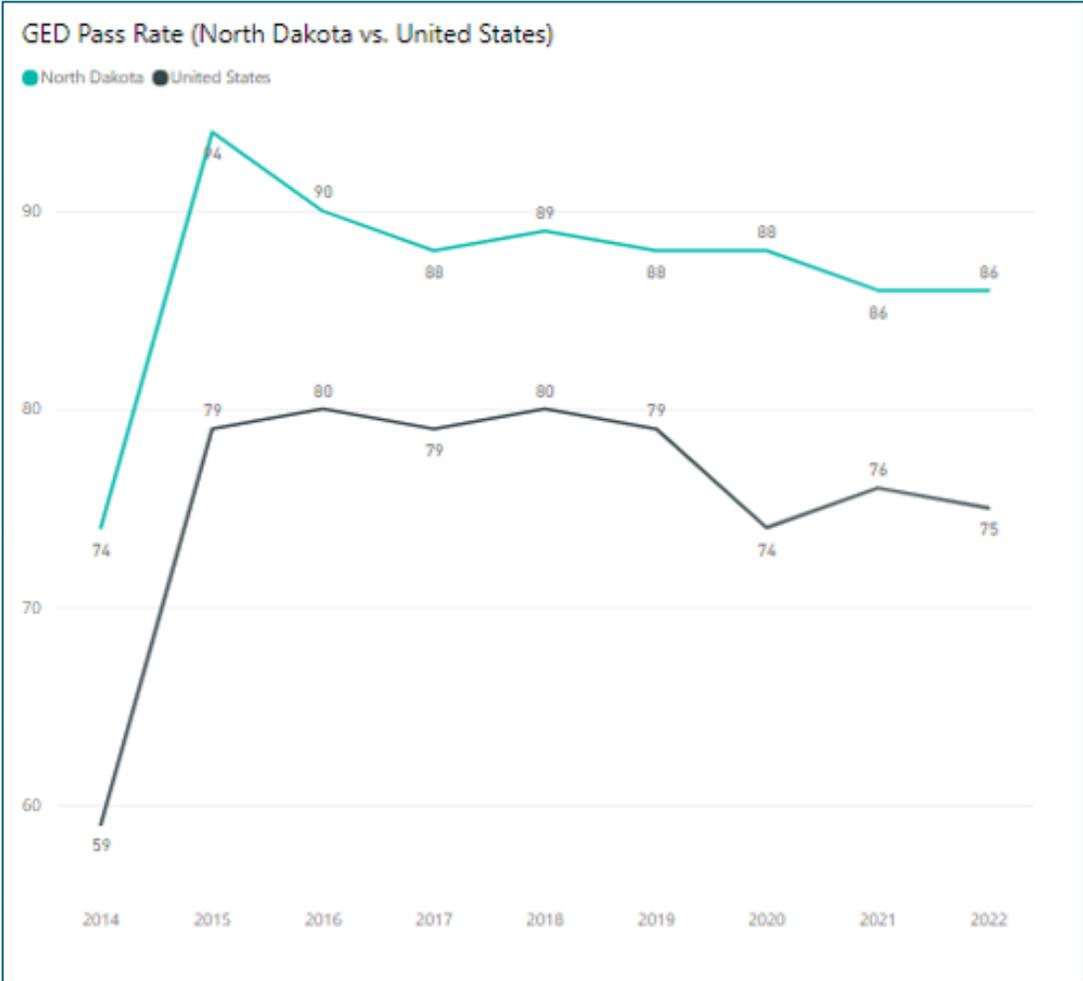
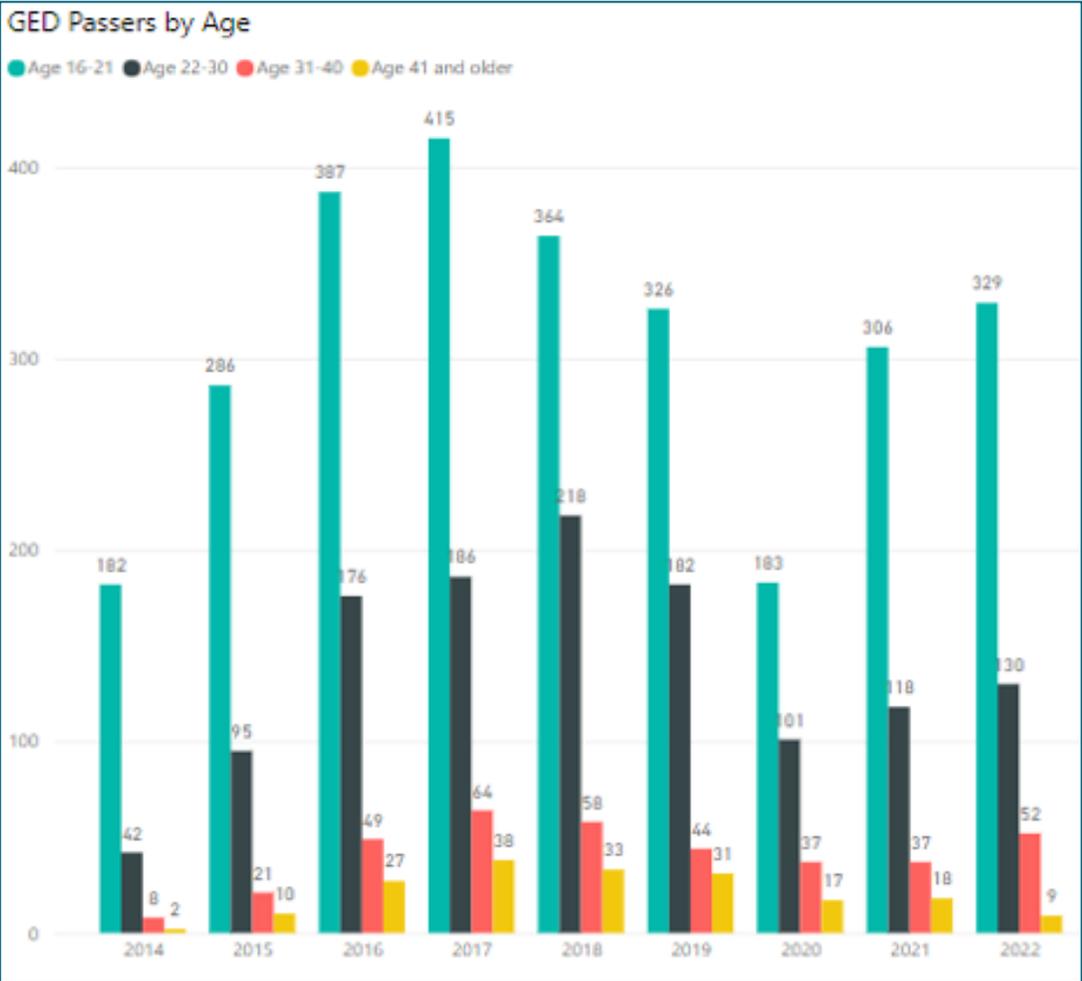
**It is what is best for some students.**

# GED + K-12 public report card

- Insights of North Dakota

- Federally-mandated public report card website.
  - Managed to get approval for GED data to be included with Adult Education metrics.
  - Metrics include
    - Number of GED testers since 2014
    - GED testers by age (very important in ND story)
    - GED Passers
    - GED Pass Rate (ND v. US).
  - Also includes an interactive map with GED testing sites and Adult Learning Centers.
- Why important:
  - Many decision makers and key stakeholders use this website
  - Provides more exposure for the program
  - Shows the partnership

# Screenshots from ND Insights



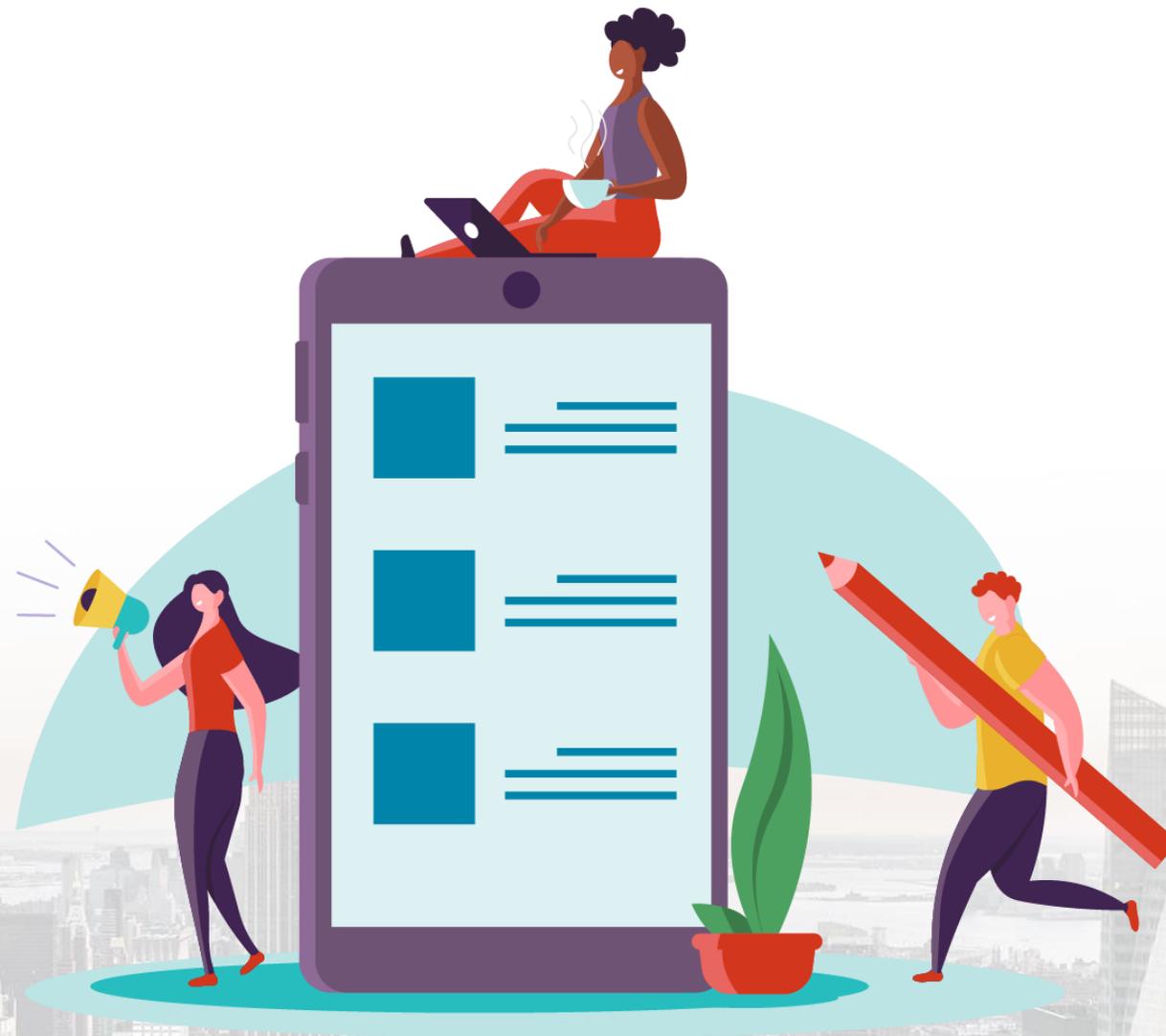
# Closing

- The point of today's presentation was simply to share three uses of the GED (aside from its primary purpose) that have helped GED/Adult Ed programs partner with the ND K-12 system.
- The main reason “why” is always because we feel it's what is best for certain students, but another benefit was increased exposure and increased funding.
- We are now seen as a partner in the education eco-system.
  - One bonus strategy that really helped – adding local legislators to the Adult Learning Center/GED advisory boards at the local level.

Thank you!

# Session Survey

Your feedback is important. Please scan the QR code below to rate this session.





2023 GED CONFERENCE

# The GED Option Program: How Oregon Provides Educational Opportunities for Secondary Students

Adrienne C. Ochs, Ph.D.  
Oregon GED Administrator™



# Introduction to the Oregon GED Option Program

- Allows 16-17 year olds to study for the GED while earning high school credit toward a diploma.
- Enables sites (schools, districts, ESDs, private alternative schools and programs) to collect state school fund dollars for those students.
- For more information: [Oregon Department of Education : Resources for Districts and Education Service Districts : Oregon General Equivalency Diploma \(GED\) : State of Oregon](#)

# Program History and Benefits

- The GED Option Program was implemented on January 2, 2002.
- The program aligns with Oregon State Standards and offers a high school equivalency certificate as well as College and Career Readiness content endorsements.
- Students benefit from quality instruction, counseling, and support services while enrolled in school.

# Program Eligibility and Additional Information

- Students must meet specific criteria, including being at least 16 years old, having academic credit deficiencies, and demonstrating adequate reading skills.
- Home-schooled students can access the GED Option Program through Education Service Districts (ESDs) or community colleges.
- The program does not require in-house GED instruction, and students who do not have access to the program can request an Exemption from Compulsory Attendance.

# Administration and Application Process

- The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) administers the State GED Option Program.
- School districts are accountable for program outcomes.
- The application process:
  - submit forms
  - receive written approval or requests for revision.

# Comparison of Required Forms

## Student dropped out and <18 years old (ex. home schooled)

- Release from compulsory education
- Authorization to test
- Parent release

*The PARENT(S) submit the forms*

## GED Option Student

- ~~Release from compulsory education~~
- ~~Authorization to test~~
- ~~Parent release~~

*The PROGRAM submits the forms*

# The pathways are clear; designed to best serve the needs of the student

## Adult Education Program

Responded to a need following WWII and continues today with Federal funding that began in the 1960s.

Primary audience was/is adults who have exited the K-12 system.

These students may lose several years before they return, earn a credential and join the workforce.

## GED Option Program

Recognized the need to engage students while still in high school but were/are at risk of dropping out.

Students may exit school with their peers and get on with further education.

Entry into the workforce may occur on the same timeline as their peers.

# Session Survey

Your feedback is important. Please scan the QR code below to rate this session.



# Now, it's your turn!

- Possibilities?
- Roadblocks?
- Partners?
- Curiosity?



# Thank You!

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