



GED® graduates: Myles, Eduardo, and Shantelle



# STUDENT HANDBOOK

# The GED Student Handbook

At GED Testing Service, we have helped over 20 million students achieve high school equivalency with their GED® credential and pursue a brighter future. The GED is more than a diploma. It's a program for students to develop skills that lead to success in higher education and career growth. We strive to empower all students to improve their lives through education.

This GED Handbook is for GED students who are part of an adult education program and self-paced students. It is meant to be a companion to *Passing the Test: Your Guide to GED Success – 5th Edition*. If you have any questions, please reach out to your local adult education program, or visit [GED.com](http://GED.com).

## History

We are GED Testing Service, the sole provider of the official GED® test. We are the only high school equivalency program that is recognized by 97% of employers and colleges nationwide.

GED Testing Service is a joint venture of the American Council on Education, which started the GED program in 1942, and leading education company Pearson.

## GED Testing Service Vision

We believe that everyone, no matter their creed, challenge, or circumstance, should have the opportunity to pursue the college and career of their dreams.

*“Troubled kids? I was one. Gangs? Jail? I was there. Second chances? I got one. I went to law school, became a lawyer, and then a judge. Now I get to give second chances.”*

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**Judge Greg Mathis, GED graduate**

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# Who should use the GED® Student Handbook?

This handbook serves potential adult education program students, self-paced learners, and advocates of students navigating the GED. Within this document you will find many helpful resources and tips.

## Inclusion and Belonging

The appropriate mindset precedes anything a student will face related to curriculum. Mindfulness should enable the discovery of external surface and internal emotional needs. These pillars of mindfulness challenge barriers and help to foster the idea that if a student feels safe, knows they belong, and understands that they are worthy and competent, they can turn their attention to their aspirations.



**Belonging**



**Worthiness**



**Competence**

## What Is A GED Credential Worth? A Second Chance!

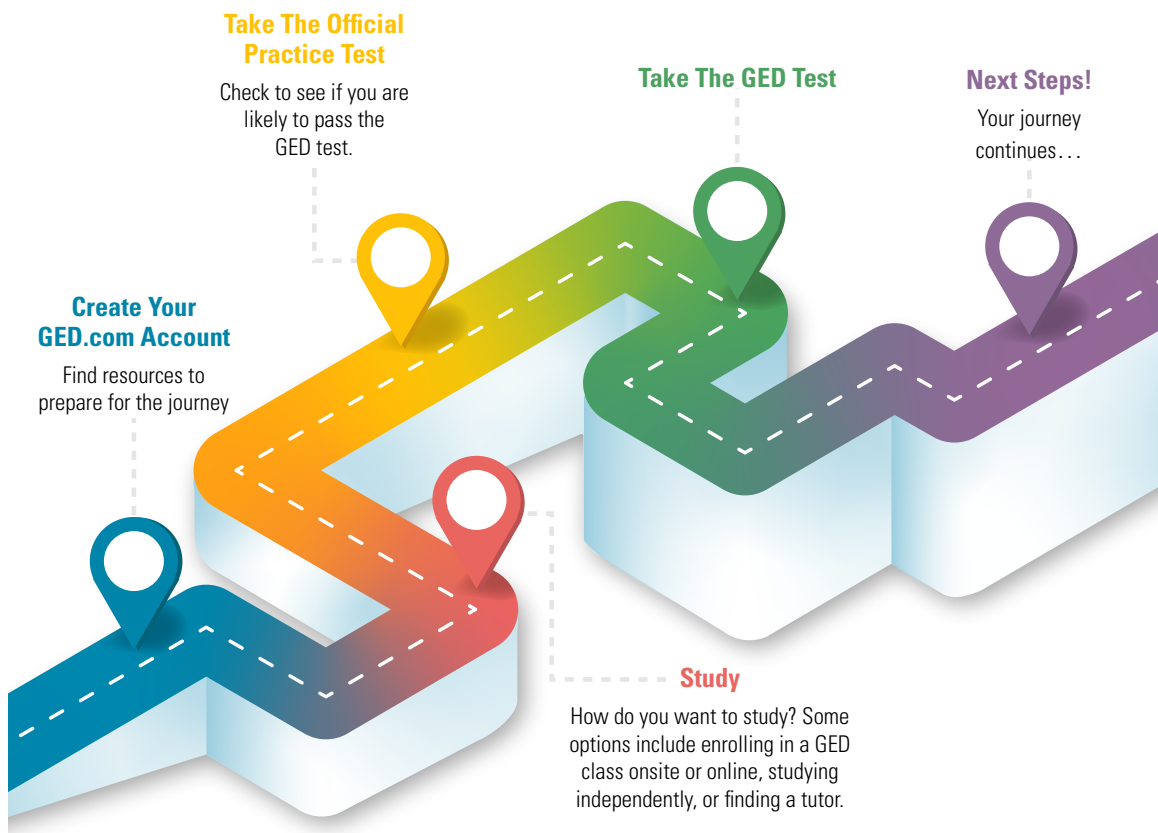
Achieving your GED Credential grants you a second chance for:

- an education
- a high school equivalency diploma
- a higher paying job
- access to higher learning
- better opportunities
- making your family proud
- making a good first impression
- feeling good about yourself

# GED Student Roadmap

If you have not already, your first step is to [create a free student account at GED.com](#). Be sure to enter information carefully and accurately. It is important that your name be entered exactly the way it is on your photo ID. Be sure to capitalize the first letter of each name. Be aware that however you type your name is exactly the way it will appear on your diploma. Then, follow on-screen prompts to complete the subsequent profile fields within your account.

Inside your GED.com account, you will have access to study resources and tools.



# Student Journey Through an Adult Education Program

There are hundreds of Adult Education programs nationwide that provide opportunities for learners to earn a high school equivalency credential (state rules may vary).

Some learners choose to enroll in an adult education program that provides onsite support and resources even when students select to enroll in a virtual classroom setting. Even if you did not have the best experience in traditional schools, adult education programs are designed with you in mind and are ready to meet you where you are in support of your educational journey. Below are some of the many benefits of enrolling in an adult education program.

## Benefits of Enrolling in an Adult Education Program

- Dedicated instructors provide quality instruction including digital literacy designed to prepare individuals to take and pass the GED test
- Individualized instruction that is contextualized for college and career readiness skills building
- Flexible and conveniently scheduled classes including distance learning options
- Being part of a learning community in the classroom environment
- Resources, targeted instruction, and peer support
- Guidance for next steps including dual enrollment options
- Instructors and staff are available to clarify concepts and help students stay motivated

## Self-Paced Learner Journey

While learning in a physical classroom environment with other students present may be ideal for certain learners, that is not always realistic, or preferred, with

today's many demands. To determine whether self-paced remote lessons are a good option for you, consider their potential benefits and challenges.

## Benefits of Self-Paced Remote Lessons

- Flexible schedule and options
- Easy access to classes and fewer worries about getting to a location, finding childcare, etc.
- Opportunity to expand computer, digital, and technology literacy skills
- Opportunity to enhance time management skills
- Being in control of your learning process and having personal accountability for program completion

## The GED Student Checklist

- Create GED.com account and complete your profile.
- If you want to enroll in a class, search for adult education programs in your area at [MyGED®: Find Classes](#).
- If you want to study independently, utilize the study materials available in your GED.com account and the Content Support materials.
- You can get the help you need from GED teachers in person or online.
- Check your schedule to ensure that you have time available to attend class and/or to self-study.
- Adult education programs may require you to complete a program enrollment form.
- Adult education programs may require you to schedule and attend an orientation session.
- Adult education programs will require you to attend classes and complete assignments.

- Whether you're in a class or studying independently, check out the Study tab in your GED.com account to find online materials for you.
- Take the GED Ready® Official Practice Test.
- Review the GED Ready Enhanced Score Report containing your study plan.
- Schedule your GED test.
- Take the GED test.
- Do you need to retake the test? Check your state's policy to learn more about retake testing rules.
- Did you pass the GED test? Congratulations!

## State Policies

Learn more about your state policies, testing locations, pricing, rules, and contact information by visiting [Policies - GED](#).

*This Handbook does not superseded State, regional, or local policies.*

## Pre- and Post-Assessments and Diagnostics

Some adult education programs require assessment or diagnostic tests like these nationally recognized assessments listed below. Potential students take an assessment with their instructors, which helps the teachers determine the students' academic strengths and weaknesses. Although useful, these assessments are not official GED practice tests. However, adult education programs may use them to place students in adult basic education or GED classes.

- [CASAS \(Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System\)](#)
- [TABE \(Academic Assessment Tool\)](#)
- [Best Plus 2.0 \(ESL\)](#)



# GED Ready® Practice Test

GED Ready® is the official GED practice test. The score received on the GED Ready predicts the likelihood of passing the official GED test. If the score is “Likely to Pass,” then think seriously about taking the GED test within the next two weeks in order to pass the GED test. The questions are created in the same method as those on the GED test and use the same format. GED Ready scores fall into one of three categories below, helping students discover areas for improvement, and the GED Ready enhanced score report is a study plan that identifies the skills needed to study for and pass the GED test.

<b>Not Likely to Pass</b>	<b>Too Close to Call</b>	<b>Likely to Pass</b>
<b>100–133</b>	<b>134–144</b>	<b>145–200</b>

If the score is “Not Likely to Pass,” then keep studying. Use the resources available under the Study tab in your GED.com student account, and attempt to retake the GED Ready test.

## GED Test Options

You can take the official GED test in-person or online. *(Be sure to check state policies as rules may vary.)*

### In-person

Schedule to take your GED test at an official GED test center near you. Simply log into your GED student account and select a test center. *(Available in English and Spanish)*

### Online

Get your GED from the comfort of your home while being securely monitored by an online proctor. *(Available in English and Spanish)* [Take the GED® Test Online | Full Guide to Taking the GED](#)

# GED+™ and GEDWorks™

[GED+](#) provides anytime, anywhere access to interactive tools so you can dive deep into every subject. [GEDWorks](#) is the official program for employers to sponsor their employee to earn their GED credential. *(Check with your employer to see if they offer this program).* You'll have a personal advisor to help you stay on track from start to finish. These programs provide you with what you need to earn your GED, including a test pass guarantee with the GED Ready® and Official GED® test.

## Accommodations

See the information below if you require any testing accommodations:

- [GED.com/about\\_test/accommodations/](https://ged.com/about_test/accommodations/)
- [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/accommodations\\_faqs.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/accommodations_faqs.pdf)

Information on how to apply, guides on how to change the screen color, how to highlight on the test, and how to change the font size are outlined here. Additionally, you will find information about low-cost testing clinics as well as the [list of personal items and modifications](#).

## Content and Support

### Areas of Instruction

What's on the test? [GED® test Subjects - See What's on the Test | GED®](#)

How do you score high on the GED test? Practice, practice, and more practice! On the next page, you'll find many resources and tools to help you prepare for each subject.



## Reasoning Through Language Arts

- Computer-Based Tutorial: [GED.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/](https://ged.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/)
- Reasoning Through Language Arts Practice Test: [GED – RLA Practice Test](https://ged.com/practice-test/en/rla/)
- Language Arts Study Guide: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/GED\\_Study-Guide\\_RLA.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/GED_Study-Guide_RLA.pdf)
- Extended Response Answer Guidelines: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/extended\\_response\\_guidelines.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/extended_response_guidelines.pdf)
- Extended Response Quick Tips: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/extended\\_response\\_quick\\_tips.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/extended_response_quick_tips.pdf)
- Extended Response Videos: [GED.com/about\\_test/test\\_subjects/language\\_arts/extended\\_response/](https://ged.com/about_test/test_subjects/language_arts/extended_response/)



## Mathematical Reasoning

- Computer-Based Tutorial: [GED.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/](https://ged.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/)
- Mathematical Reasoning Practice Test: [GED.com/practice-test/en/math/](https://ged.com/practice-test/en/math/)
- Mathematics Study Guide: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/GED\\_Study-Guide\\_Math.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/GED_Study-Guide_Math.pdf)
- Mathematics Reference Sheet: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/math\\_formula\\_sheet.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/math_formula_sheet.pdf)
- Calculator Reference Sheet: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/calculator\\_sheet.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/calculator_sheet.pdf)
- Calculator Practice Tutorial: [GED.com/practice-test/en/calculator/](https://ged.com/practice-test/en/calculator/)
- Calculator Videos: <https://youtu.be/VoLZLsRXuKE>



## Science

- Computer-Based Tutorial: [GED.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/](https://ged.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/)
- Science Sample Practice Test: [GED.com/practice-test/en/science/](https://ged.com/practice-test/en/science/)
- Science Study Guide: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/GED\\_Study-Guide\\_Science.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/GED_Study-Guide_Science.pdf)
- Science Video: <https://youtu.be/XF0pPddPJ30>



## Social Studies

- Computer-Based Tutorial: [GED.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/](https://GED.com/practice-test/en/computer-demonstrator/)
- Social Studies Sample Practice Test: [GED.com/practice-test/en/social-studies/](https://GED.com/practice-test/en/social-studies/)
- Social Studies Study Guide: [GED.com/wp-content/uploads/GED\\_Study-Guide\\_Social-Studies.pdf](https://GED.com/wp-content/uploads/GED_Study-Guide_Social-Studies.pdf)
- Social Studies Video: <https://youtu.be/ubshbh-mzoA>

## Common Skills Across Subjects

Here are some skills you will need to be successful in all four test subjects.

Common Skills	RLA	Math	Science	Social Studies
Close Reading Skills	✓	✓	✓	✓
Critical Thinking Skills	✓	✓	✓	✓
Distinguishing Facts From Claims	✓		✓	✓
Following Steps in a Process		✓	✓	✓
Interpreting Data in Graphs, Charts, and Tables	✓	✓	✓	✓
Making Inferences, Drawing Conclusions, and Analyzing Claims, Reasoning, and Evidence	✓		✓	✓

## Understanding Your Scores

### [What is a Passing GED® Test Score?](#)

You need to obtain a score of 145 or better to pass the GED test. Furthermore, students who score higher may be eligible to receive college credit or even skip college entrance exams. It's clearly in your best interest to do as well as possible on the GED test! When you pass all four GED test subjects, find out how to [request your GED transcript & diploma.](#)

If you get a score that is below passing, that's okay. Continue to study and practice, then prepare to retake the subject(s) of the test that you did not pass. If you earned below passing on all four subjects, you will need to retake all four subjects.

## College and Career Readiness

The GED program helps adult learners earn a meaningful high school equivalency credential and be better prepared for future college and career opportunities.

- [College Readiness](#) — Being college ready is more important today than ever. Many new jobs being created in the next 20 years will require certificates and degrees beyond a high school credential, and GED graduates need to be in a strong position to compete with traditional high school graduates.
- [GEDWorks™ Education Benefit Program](#) — Many employers require job candidates to have earned at least their high school diploma or GED credential. You can earn your GED for free through participating employers.
- [Pearson Accelerated Pathways](#) — This program offers low-cost online college courses that let you pay as you go. Sign up for a free consultation and an advisor can show you college options for a degree path that fits your interests. Plus, find out if your employer offers tuition assistance — we partner with corporations all over the country to offer tuition reimbursement plans to employees.
- [Credly](#) — GED badges are a fast way to show proof of knowledge and build credibility with colleges and employers.
  - Digital badges are secure, web-enabled credentials containing verified information about your achievements.
  - Badges are a great way to create a portfolio of accomplishments.
  - Display your badge on social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook, as well as embedded on your personal website or digital resume.

- [Julius](#) — The Environmental Opportunity Program is an innovative, end-to-end learning and employment program designed explicitly for GED graduates. It is an “on-ramp” to green job training and employment opportunities. Julius provides graduates with skills that companies want, industry-recognized certifications for STEM and environmental jobs, and personalized career discovery. As a GED graduate in this program, you will learn about environmental jobs you like, get free training so companies will want to hire you, and get job placement help with companies looking to hire you.

## Wraparound Services

What are wraparound services? Wraparound services help adult learners overcome barriers and continue their journey to reach educational and career success. Situational barriers may include the following: lack of or low income, unstable living situation, food insecurity, lack of reliable and affordable childcare, or family responsibilities. Many adult education programs partner with governmental agencies, community-based nonprofits, and faith-based programs to provide wraparound services.

Examples of types of wraparound services:

- Career counseling
- Financial/childcare/transportation assistance
- Disability support
- Homeless support
- Computer/technology assistance

## Graduations

Most adult education programs offer at least one GED graduation ceremony each year. Once the GED test is passed, students will be invited to participate.

This is your opportunity to put on your cap and gown, take pictures, march down the aisle, and celebrate your educational accomplishment! Additionally, the GED Testing Service holds an annual virtual graduation celebration.

Follow the GED Facebook Group to join in the GED Grad Day celebrations!

[facebook.com/GEDTesting](https://facebook.com/GEDTesting)

## Testimonials

Each year thousands of adults make a commitment to get their GED. You are on your way to joining 20 million+ people who have earned their diploma. [Check out GED graduate stories](#) from people around the country who have used the GED to transform their lives!

## Social Media

Follow us on social media:

- Facebook: [facebook.com/GEDTesting](https://facebook.com/GEDTesting)
- GED Facebook Graduate Group: [facebook.com/groups/658529525237168](https://facebook.com/groups/658529525237168)
- Instagram: [instagram.com/gedtesting/](https://instagram.com/gedtesting/)
- TikTok: [tiktok.com/@gedtestingservice](https://tiktok.com/@gedtestingservice)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/gedtesting](https://twitter.com/gedtesting)
- GED YouTube: [youtube.com/@GEDTestingService/videos](https://youtube.com/@GEDTestingService/videos)
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/ged-testing-service](https://linkedin.com/company/ged-testing-service)

# Customer Service for Examinees

Registration and scheduling customer service options:

- Email: Test-takers can email [help@GED.com](mailto:help@GED.com) with general questions about the test. For a faster response, use the chat feature on [GED.com](https://GED.com) by clicking the blue icon in the bottom right corner of the screen. *Note: Do not include social security numbers and/or credit card information when chatting with our Live Chat agents. You cannot schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment by live chat.*
- Customer Support Center: Test-takers can sign up for and schedule their GED test, and change or cancel test appointments by calling 1-877-EXAM-GED (392-6433). The toll-free test-taker assistance call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. For frequently asked questions, visit the FAQ page: [GED.com/faq](https://GED.com/faq)

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