



# MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 11, 2012

RE: Pricing for the New GED Test (2014)

GED Testing Service is pleased to announce that the cost to the jurisdictions\* for the new 2014 GED<sup>®</sup> test on computer will remain at US\$120. This pricing will remain in effect through the end of 2014. Jurisdictions will continue to set test-taker fees as they have always done.

The cost for the new assessment will be the same as the current GED<sup>®</sup> test on computer, while providing increased services and benefits to test-takers. As previously announced, this cost includes: online 24/7 registration & scheduling, enhanced test security, more flexible testing schedules, instant unofficial score reports/scoring, test leasing, accommodations, enhanced data management and reporting capabilities, and more. From the US\$120 price, approximately \$38 will be paid to GED<sup>®</sup> testing centers.

The new GED<sup>®</sup> assessment will continue to be approximately seven hours in length and will still measure high school equivalency. New features of the test will include a new college- and career-ready performance level and a detailed score report with more information than ever before for test-takers and adult educators.

We are making this announcement as quickly as possible in order to facilitate jurisdictions' budgeting and planning cycles.

GED Testing Service remains committed to developing a GED<sup>®</sup> assessment system that better serves as a steppingstone rather than an end point for adult learners, and to prepare adults for careers, college, and training programs.

Please direct any questions about this announcement to:

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*\*In this Policy Memo, jurisdictions include the 50 United States and the District of Columbia plus the U.S. Insular Areas, Michigan Prisons, DANTES and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP).*

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# FAQs

***How will this cost be spread across subjects (Mathematics, Social Studies, Literacy & Science)?***

GED Testing Service is still determining how the costs will be spread across subtests, since the two former Language Arts tests are being combined in the new assessment. We are studying the optimal structure that works best for testing centers and is easiest for test-takers to understand. We anticipate a decision and announcement on this topic within the next couple of months.

***Will test center compensation change?***

No. The test center compensation will remain the same as it is for the GED® test on computer: \$5 per hour (per person) or approximately \$38 for the entire test.

***How is test center compensation affected by extra time required for approved test accommodations?***

The costs for test-takers that require double time as an approved accommodation will continue at US\$120, but testing centers will continue to receive \$5 per hour (or approximately \$76 for the entire test in this example).

***Will test-takers have a harder time passing the new GED® test?***

There is no doubt that the content on which the new GED® assessment is based is different from the content on which current and prior versions of the GED® test were based. This new—and some may say more rigorous—content is essential because the skills required for jobs that pay family-sustaining wages have also increased. The new test must reflect the realities of both the workplace and of postsecondary education (given that so many jobs require some postsecondary education or training).

It is important that the high school equivalency standard for the new GED® assessment reflect the actual performance of graduating high school seniors—a group of students who have not received instruction in career- and college-readiness content, but who, nonetheless, will be receiving high school diplomas. By conducting a standardization study in fall 2013 with a diverse national sample of high school seniors representative of the range of students expected to graduate from high school in spring 2014, the GED Testing Service will ensure that the high school equivalency cut point on our new test has parity with the performance expectations for current high school graduates—just as is the case on the 2002 Series test.

***Will test-takers pay more for the new GED® test?***

Each state will set test-taker fees based on whether or not – or to what extent – to subsidize the US\$120 cost. The current paper-based GED® test-taker fees across the country range from \$0 to more than \$300, depending on the cost to deliver the paper-based test, level of state funds contributed, and the availability of funds being contributed by organizations who run GED® test centers.

***Will there be support for test takers that cannot afford their states test-taker fees?***

In a study released in 2010, we found that 46,000 test-takers had received \$3.3 million in scholarships and grants to take the GED® test. We don't assume that amount was sufficient to cover the needs of all of the most vulnerable test-takers. We believe that there are additional supports for test-takers that can be implemented—like voucher programs and state, local and national organizations working together to consolidate funds in the adult education system. We also think that given the new GED® test's direction that employers and foundations will be encouraged to participate more actively in programs that result in a higher skilled, better prepared workforce. In fact, one state that has recently begun offering the GED® test on computer is expected to announce a significant scholarship effort funded by an employer in the coming months. GED Testing Service will also be seeking opportunities to assist test-takers with the greatest need.