

Development of PY 2014 HSE-related Model-based Goals

The PY 2014 Model-based Goals for the High School Diploma (HSD)/High School Equivalency (HSE) Attainment rate and Combination HSE/HSD/Career Technical Training (CTT) Attainment rate measures were developed through a multi-step process. The first step made adjustments for student demographic and ability factors (age, prior education, and initial TABE scores), and resulted in a base model goal for each center. These are the same factors included in developing model-based goals each year.

This base goal was then adjusted up or down as appropriate, taking into account two key elements of the 2014 HSE transition. Specifically, the base goals were adjusted to account for differences in the level of difficulty of the three new HSE tests (GED 2014, HiSET, TASC) as compared to the previous test (GED 2002), as well as differences in the amount/availability of student HSE testing. The results indicate that the GED 2014 is a much more difficult test than the GED 2002 test, and that both the HiSET and TASC tests are easier than the GED 2002 test and considerably easier than the GED 2014 test. In addition, the results indicate that centers that are experiencing a significant decline in student HSE testing, as compared to their testing rates in previous years, achieve lower performance on the HSD/HSE Attainment and Combination Attainment measures.

The impacts of these two elements (test type and testing frequency) were combined to create a center-specific HSE testing adjustment that ranged from -5 percentage points to +5 percentage points for the HSD/HSE Attainment measure (above the adjustment already made in the first step of this process). For example, centers that transferred to the more difficult HSE test (GED 2014) received a reduction in their model-based goal of 0 to 5 percentage points depending on the amount of HSE testing they did before the HSE transition and their expected testing frequency for PY 2014. Similarly, centers that transferred to an easier HSE test (HiSET or TASC) received an increase in their model-based goal of 0 to 5 percentage points depending on the amount of HSE testing they did before the HSE transition and their expected testing frequency for PY 2014. The adjustment for the Combination HSD/HSE/CTT rate measure followed the same approach except that the size of the adjustments ranged from 0 to 2.5.