

June 21, 2016

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NOTICE NO. 15-19
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: 2014 GED[®] Scoring and Testing Changes: Impact on PY 2015 Outcome Measurement System (OMS)

1. Purpose. To notify operators and centers of changes to the 2014 GED[®] and retroactive acceptance of the 145 pass score for High School Equivalency (HSE) credentials/certificates earned during Program Year (PY) 2015.
2. Background. The 2014 GED[®] replaced the 2002 GED[®] January 2, 2014, and introduced test changes such as an extended-response requirement for the Reasoning through Language Arts (RLA) test and the Social Studies test. Performance data generated through Standardization and Norming Study conducted by GED Testing Service (GEDTS) in 2013 set the passing score for high school equivalency at 150 and at 170 for a GED[®] with Honors (college readiness). Currently, 25 states use the 2014 GED[®] as their only test option for demonstrating high school equivalency. An additional 13 states and the District of Columbia offer the 2014 GED[®] as one of two or three test options.
3. Changes to the 2014 GED[®] GEDTS announced January 26, 2016, the following changes to the 2014 GED[®]:
 - a. The passing score for high school equivalency has been recalibrated from 150 to 145, and two passing levels have been added:
 - i. GED[®] College Ready – a new score level of 165 that signifies readiness to bypass placement exams and remedial education at the college level, and immediately enroll in credit-bearing coursework. This seemingly replaces the GED[®] with Honors in the initial release
 - ii. GED[®] College Ready + Credit – a new score level of 175 that signifies students may be eligible for up to 10 college credit hours (three math,

three social studies, three science, and one English/humanities). Credit will be given at the discretion of the college.

- b. The extended-response requirement in the Social Studies test was eliminated March 1, 2016, reducing the Social Studies testing time by 20 minutes, according to GEDTS. GEDTS determined that these skills are sufficiently demonstrated on the RLA portion of the test.

GEDTS reports that a detailed analysis of both test-taker performance and educational outcomes of GED[®] program graduates over the past 18 months drove these changes. GEDTS recommends that states adopt the scoring changes and retroactively award high school equivalency to students who scored between 145 and 149 on the 2014 GED[®] since January 1, 2014. With the exception of Tennessee and New Jersey, every affected state and the District accepted the scoring change and retroactively awarded an equivalency certificate or diploma to students who scored between 145 and 149. Attachment A provides information on the reported process each state used to disseminate credentials/diplomas issued retroactively.

4. Actions.

- Moving forward, OMS credit will be granted immediately for HSE certificates/diplomas based on a 2014 GED[®] pass score of 145 and above on all subtests and a cumulative score of 580 and above.
- For students who took the GED[®] between July 1, 2015 and the present:
 - OMS credit will be granted for students who were retroactively awarded an HSE certificate/diploma. Academic Managers will contact these students to provide advisement and secure a copy of the HSE certificate/diploma for placement in the student files. A scanned copy of the HSE certificate/diploma will be sent to the Office of Job Corps c/o Kristen Johnson (johnson.kristen@dol.gov) by August 1, 2016, with the center's request for OMS credit.
 - HSE certificate/diplomas received by August 1, 2016, will be flagged in the Center Information System. Students eligible for a transition allowance adjustment will be contacted on or after July 1, 2016, with instructions on how to claim their adjustments.
- OMS credit will not be granted for students who took the GED[®] between January 2, 2014 and July 1, 2015, because performance data for PY 2013 and PY 2014 has already been finalized.

Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

5. Effective Date. Immediately.

6. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

7. Inquiries. Questions about this Program Instruction Notice should be addressed to Kristen Johnson (Johnson.kristen@dol.gov), or at (202) 693-8014.

Attachment

State Adoption of GED[®] Change