STATE OF MARYLAND
DLLR
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
500 N. Calvert Street, 4th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Alexander M. Sanchez, Secretary

DATE: April 24, 2012

SUBJECT: GED® Testing Program

PURPOSE:

The State Board of Education and DLLR jointly issue a Maryland High School Diploma to individuals who have passed all subjects of the GED® tests. DLLR wishes to inform the State Board of Education of changes to the delivery system of the GED® tests that are being implemented by the national GED® Testing Service.

BACKGROUND:

DLLR has been administering the GED® tests in Maryland via the traditional paper and pencil modality, which has historically been the sole method of test administration. Recently, the national GED® Testing Service has piloted computer-based GED® testing in a number of states. Maryland is proposing to implement a pilot of computer-based GED® testing at a number of sites around the state, while continuing to offer the paper and pencil tests at currently approved testing centers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

During the recent economic crisis, applications to take the GED® tests in Maryland increased markedly, as individuals lacking a high school diploma found few opportunities for self-sufficiency level employment. It has been a challenge to meet this increased demand utilizing the traditional paper and pencil based tests and the limited number of currently available testing sites. Computer-based testing will offer efficiencies in the registration, test administration and scoring of the GED® tests. Additionally, offering a pilot of computer-based GED® testing on the current series of tests will serve to prepare for the 2014 series of GED® tests, which will be solely administered by computer.

ACTION:

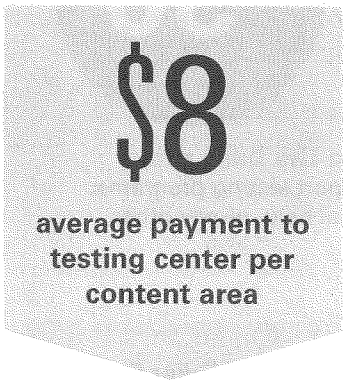
DLLR is requesting the State Board of Education to continue in partnership in the awarding of the Maryland High School Diploma for all students who pass the GED® tests, whether they have taken paper and pencil versions of the test or the computer-based version.

GED TESTING SERVICE®

The GED® Test on Computer
Jurisdiction Base Pricing Overview

Base Pricing

- Using the current 2002 test series, the base price of the GED® test on computer is $24 per content area.
- The $24 price per content area remains the same, whether testing is completed in five appointments or one.
- The base price for a re-test is also $24.
- Test-taker fees will be determined by jurisdiction, with pricing flexibility built into the model to ensure jurisdictions meet their unique needs.
- Each jurisdiction will have the flexibility to add or discount fees to the base price.



Testing Center Payment

- From the base price of $24 per content area, the testing center will be paid $5 per appointment hour or an average of $8 per content area.
  - Ex: A test-taker schedules the Math Part I & II test (approx. two hours). The testing center will receive a $10 payment.
  - The testing center will get $10 even if the test-taker finishes the test in a shorter amount of time.
- Testing centers will receive approximately $40 per test battery completed, except in some cases of accommodated testing.
- When additional time is needed for accommodations, testing centers will still receive $5 per appointment hour.
  - Ex: A test-taker requests double time for the Math Part I & II test (a four-hour test).
- Testing centers will receive payment on a monthly basis.

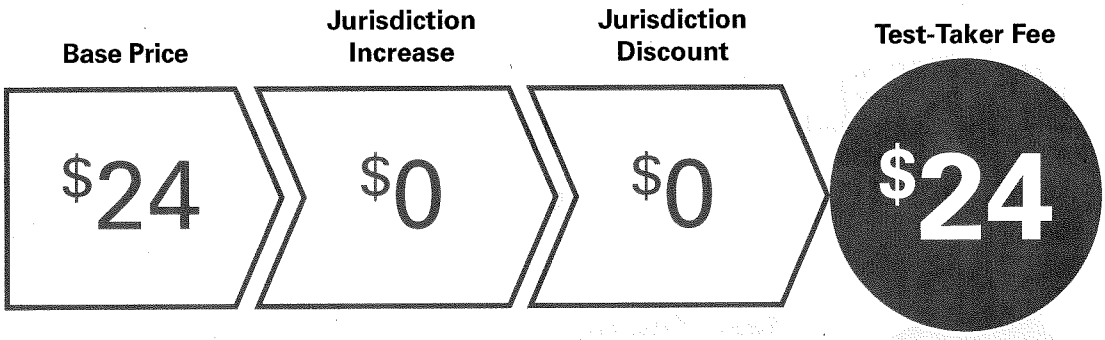
Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Services from GED Testing Service

- ✓ Test leasing
- ✓ Flexible registration & scheduling
- ✓ Fee collection
- ✓ Test scoring
- ✓ Instant unofficial score reports for multiple choice tests
- ✓ Reporting
- ✓ Data management
- ✓ Data transfers
- ✓ Flexible testing schedules
- ✓ Test security
- ✓ Proctoring
- ✓ Accommodations

All dollar amounts shown are in US dollars.

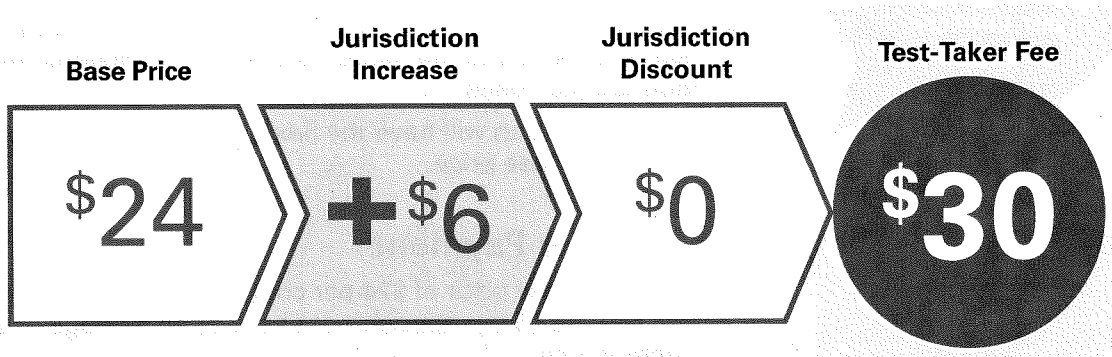
Test-taker Fee Scenarios

Examples of fees for the GED® test on computer



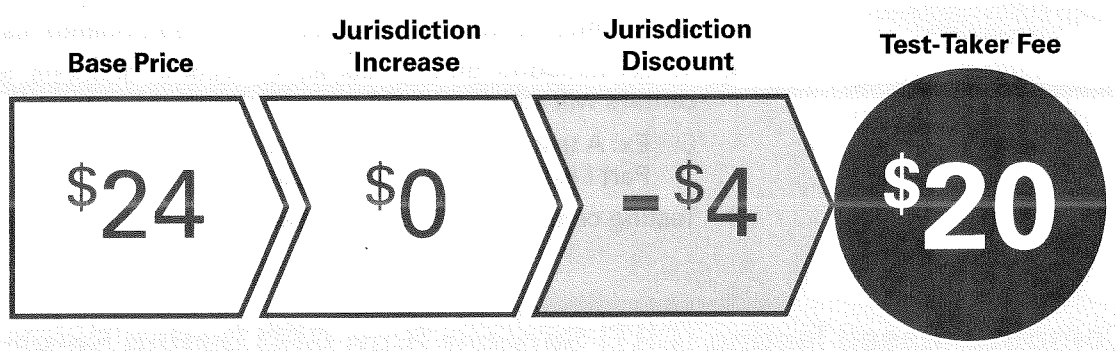
Straightforward Fee: No additional fees and no discounts to the base price

What you see is what you get—the test-taker will pay $24 for the price of each content area.



Additional Fee: Jurisdiction adds a fee to the base price

The additional $6 fee per content area might support testing programs, a scholarship fund for test-takers needing financial help, or any other program the jurisdiction chooses.



Discount Fee: Jurisdiction discounts the base price

Discounts, in this case $4 per content area, might be possible with jurisdictional earmarks for testing, or gifts from community-based organizations or companies.

To learn more, or to view Education & Planning Course 3: CBT Pricing, visit www.GEDcbt.org

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GED TESTING SERVICE®

GED® TESTING: OPENING DOORS TO A BETTER FUTURE

63

Percentage of GED® test-takers who aspire to attend college or a career training program.

$403,000

Average additional amount an adult with a high school credential earns over an adult without a credential during the course of his or her lifetime.

DAVE THOMAS

Founder of Wendy's and one of many famous GED® graduates.

In the United States today, almost 1 in 5 adults—more than 39 million individuals—lacks a high school credential. The GED® test, established in 1942, has helped 18 million adults receive their high school credential, attend college, secure better-paying jobs, support their families, and realize their dreams for a better life. The GED® testing program:

- Serves as the only nationally recognized high school equivalency program.
- Certifies attainment of high school-level academic knowledge and skills.
- Covers five content areas: Language Arts, Reading; Language Arts, Writing; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies.
- Requires just over 7 hours to complete the entire GED® test battery.
- Sets a rigorous standard that only 60% of graduating high school seniors would pass on the first attempt.
- Requires a combined total score of 2250 and at least 410 on each content area to pass.

As a country, we must find new ways to serve more adult learners by providing them with better educational and economic opportunities. The GED® 21st Century Initiative is an important first step in increasing adult educational opportunities and preparing adults for success in the future.

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT LEARNERS: THE GED® 21ST CENTURY INITIATIVE

Through the GED® 21st Century Initiative, the new GED Testing Service® and its partners are responding to the needs of millions of adult learners who must achieve real progress to realize their education and career aspirations. Three closely linked components make up this bold initiative:

PREPARE: Nationally accessible preparation programs.

PERFORM: A test to certify high school equivalence and career- and college-readiness.

PROGRESS: A transition network to college, training, and careers.

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Average number of years between dropping out and taking the GED® test.

63

Percentage of U.S. jobs requiring a postsecondary education in 2018.

98%

Colleges that accept applications from adults who passed the GED® test as equivalent to high school graduates.

PREPARE

Preparation currently occurs at home for 54% of GED® test-takers, and those who seek out help may use programs on television or online, in community colleges, or at local libraries. Adult education and GED® testing programs are not federally administered programs. Nonprofit organizations and state entities run most programs.

GED Testing Service® and the American Council on Education are developing tools to help adults at all skill levels increase their knowledge and preparedness for the GED® test—and to help more adults pass the test successfully. This includes:

- Diagnostic pre-assessment.
- Customized curriculum and differentiated instruction.
- Diagnostic post-assessment.
- GED® test-readiness assessment.

PERFORM

The GED® test was developed in 1942 to help World War II veterans transition back into civilian life and qualify for college and jobs. Today's adult learners must be prepared to pass the GED® test and to compete nationwide for jobs and careers.

In addition to certifying high school-level skills and knowledge, the new GED® test will certify that an adult is ready for college and certain careers. The new test is:

- Aligned with the Common Core State Standards.
- Delivered through computer-based testing requiring basic computer skills.
- Designed to demonstrate career- and college-readiness.

PROGRESS

Today, adults who pass the GED® test can apply for the same college programs and employment opportunities as high school graduates. In a study of GED® graduates from the 2003 cohort, more than 17,000 adults had successfully graduated from a college or career training program, earning a degree or certificate in their desired field of study.

GED Testing Service® is working with partners across nonprofit, public, and private sectors to help more adults make a successful transition to college, training, and careers. The goal is to:

- Connect to pathways for career and college opportunities.
- Provide tools for adults to receive information, counseling, or other supports to enroll.
- Help adults attain college degrees or career certification.

LEARN MORE AT
www.GEDtestingservice.com
Join us in helping more adults prepare for, perform on, and progress beyond the GED® test.