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General Educational Development (GED)

The Michigan Department of Career Development, Adult Education Office, administers the system for the General Educational Development (GED) tests.

What is the GED and why is it important?

In 2002, approximately 43,000 individuals completed all or part of the GED exam in Michigan. Students must successfully complete all five subject area examinations included in the GED test to qualify for a GED certificate. The GED examinations include mathematics; science; social studies; language arts, reading, and writing. Many employers consider the GED certificate equivalent to the traditional high school diploma. In Michigan, 54 percent of GED test-takers plan to enroll in a college, university, or trade, technical, or business school the year after obtaining a GED certificate.

During 2001 in Michigan, 71 percent of the test takers who completed the entire GED series passed the GED, qualifying for a high school equivalency certificate. This percentage of successful test completers is a 3.5 percent increase from the previous year.

What are the Michigan Department of Career Development's responsibilities?

- Issue GED certificates.
- Maintain a database of the approximately 300,000 individuals who have received a GED certificate.
- Approve GED examiners and test centers.
- Approve special examination accommodations for individuals with physical and learning disabilities.
- Report and investigate any examination security violations.
- Provide consultation to the 150 preparation programs and more than 142 GED test sites in Michigan.

What's new about the GED?

In January 2002, a new version of the GED English edition was introduced. This new version reflected more up-to-date high school graduation requirements and the needs expressed by many employers. Beginning in January 2004, new versions of the GED Spanish and French editions will be introduced. Examinees currently testing with the Spanish or French versions of the GED series must successfully complete these exams prior to January 2004 or start all over again.

How can I get more information?

Contact your local Adult Education program, or call the Michigan Department of Career Development, Adult Education Office, at (517) 373-1692 (voice) or 1-888-605-6722 (TTY). Additional information on Michigan GED testing and certification requirements and a directory of testing centers are available at www.michigan.gov/mdcd by following the links to Career Preparation and Adult Education. National information from the American Council on Education is available at www.gedtest.org.