Everything you need to know about the new **GED** HSE!

New York State has a new test for students to earn their High School Equivalency (HSE). It’s called:

‘Test Assessing Secondary Completion’ (TASC).

*The GED is no longer used in NYS.*

**WHAT IS THE SAME**

- If you pass the TASC, you will receive a *High School Equivalency (HSE)* diploma from New York State, the same as when people passed the old GED® test.
- TASC is free to the test taker.
- Colleges & employers will accept the HSE.
- TASC has the same five test subjects.
- TASC is offered at the same test sites.
- Prep courses for the TASC will be offered by the same state and city funded prep programs that offered GED® prep classes.
- The TASC is a rigorous test that will take between *five and ten hours* to complete, similar to the old GED® Test.
- If you have a proven disability, you can apply for accommodations.
- TASC is available in English and Spanish.

**WHAT IS DIFFERENT**

- The TASC will be offered as a paper based test or as a computer based test.
- The TASC is Common Core aligned and will probably be more difficult than the old GED® Test. Over the next 3 years, the TASC will be increasingly Common Core aligned (and more complex).
- There is no overall passing score for the TASC. You just have to pass each individual subject. We do not know yet the passing score for each subject.
- The TASC *Readiness* test will be available for you to take (for a fee) online in late Feb. [www.tasctest.com](http://www.tasctest.com)

**BEWARE OF SCAMS**

- Starting January 1, 2014, *you cannot take the 2014 GED® Test in New York State.* If you take it in another state, your HSE Diploma will come from that state. If someone offers you the opportunity to take the GED® Test in New York, it’s a scam!
- The TASC will be offered as a computer based test in some locations, but it won’t be available through the internet. You must register for the test at a New York State Education Department sanctioned test site. If someone lets you take the TASC online at home, it's a scam!
- The TASC is free to test takers, under NYS law. If someone charges money, it’s a scam!
- Report scams to your local state or city funded adult education site and/or [www.lacnyc.org](http://www.lacnyc.org)!
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ’S)

Q: **What about the old GED?**  
A: Everyone says, “I want my GED.” But when you pass the GED® test, you don’t “get a GED” – passing the test entitles you to a high school equivalency (HSE) diploma, which can only be issued by New York State Education Department. Colleges and employers will accept this HSE diploma. The type of test can change, but it’s the same HSE diploma. So we should start saying: “I want my HSE!”

Q: **Why is NYS using the TASC, instead of the GED test?**  
A: The new 2014 GED® test is computer-based, Common Cored-aligned, and very expensive. Due to these dramatic changes, New York State has elected to replace the GED® test with the TASC, which is Common Cored-aligned but will slowly increase difficulty over three years. The TASC is less expensive (to NYS) than the new 2014 GED®, which lets NYS continue to offer it free to test takers.

Q: **I almost passed the GED! What can I do?**  
A: You may use up to 4 passing GED® sub-tests (score of 410 or above) taken between 2002-2013 to count towards a HSE in NYS. This will be allowed for two years (2014 and 2015). The first time you take the TASC, you must take all five TASC sub-tests, but you only need to pass the section you failed previously. If you already passed all five GED® sub-tests but did not get the minimum total score of 2250, then you must pass one of the TASC sub-tests.

Q: **Can I enroll in a private college or vocational school to get my HSE?**  
A: It’s important to do research before you sign up for one of these schools. Many adult students have signed up with such schools, only to end up in debt (to with no financial aid left for college), and without a diploma. Google “Know Before You Enroll NYC” for a helpful link from NYC.

Q: **What’s actually on this new TASC test?**  
A: The test has five subtests: Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. In 2014, the test will have multiple choice items and gridded response items. In 2015 and 2016, “constructed-response” and “technology enhanced” items will be added. Reading passages will be longer and more complex. Math will have more algebra, and you must know how to solve problems multiple ways. The Writing prompt will use two reading passages which must be used in the essay.

Q: **How hard will the TASC be to pass?**  
A: As of January 2014, we’re not sure yet! It’s a new, new test. Here’s what we do know:  
- The test will be Common Core aligned – which means it will be more difficult.  
- BUT…McGraw-Hill says they are setting the passing score (or the “cut off” score) to a lower level so that the same number of people pass. (This is called “norming.”)  
If this is true, then while the test itself is harder, you could get a lower score and still pass.

Q: **Can I use a calculator on the TASC?**  
A: Yes. The new official calculator is the “TI-30XS,” a scientific calculator. It’s more complicated, so we recommend either buying one to practice with, or you can practice online: [www.tasctest.com/approved-calculators.html](http://www.tasctest.com/approved-calculators.html) (click on the first link).

Q: **Are there prep books I can use to study?**  
A: McGraw-Hill is publishing a prep book in mid-February, and Kaplan will publish one in May.