



ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DATA

CALENDAR YEAR 2018

February 19, 2020

Background

The Illinois Compiled Statutes School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-15.12) outlines minimum state requirements for high school equivalency (HSE) testing. This legislation provides the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) with the authority to establish guidelines for Illinois HSE testing including the selection of HSE exams and programs; the creation of policies and procedures for testing; the implementation of minimum passing standards for an HSE credential; and the implementation of state and local fees for exams, transcripts, and credentials.

The ICCB has approved three HSE exams for use in the State of Illinois: the General Education Development Test (GED®) published by GED Testing Service, the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET®) published by Educational Testing Service, and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™) published by Data Recognition Corporation. In addition to passing one of these three HSE exams, a candidate must also pass the high school level U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test and Flag Test (“Constitution Test”) to be eligible for an Illinois HSE Certificate.

Data from this report was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, the GED Analytics database made available by GED Testing Service, the ETS Data Manager for HiSET made available by Educational Testing Service, and the TASC Prism Database made available by Data Recognition Corporation.

Data from this report covers Calendar Year 2018, which spans from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Glossary of Key Terms

Test takers: the number of individuals who have taken at least one subtest of a high school equivalency exam

Completers: the number of individuals who have taken all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam

Passers: the number of individuals who have taken and passed all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam

Pass rate: the percentage of completers who have passed all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam

Credential attainment: the number of individuals who have taken and passed all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam *and* the U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test

Illinois High School Equivalency Performance

Table 1: Illinois HSE Performance, Calendar Year 2018

| Exam | Test Takers | Completers | Passers | IL Pass Rate | National Pass Rate |
|-------|-------------|------------|---------|--------------|--------------------|
| GED | 13,301 | 8,662 | 6,760 | 78.0% | 80.0% |
| HiSET | 1,005 | 533 | 390 | 73.2% | N/A |
| TASC | 39 | 28 | 20 | 71.4% | N/A |
| Total | 14,345 | 9,223 | 7,170 | 77.7% | N/A |

Data on test takers, completers, passers, and pass rate was compiled using GED Analytics, ETS Data Manager for HiSET, and TASC Prism Database. The national pass rate is not available for all exams.

Table 2: Illinois Credential Attainment, Calendar Year 2018

| Exam | Passers | Credential Attainment | Percentage of Passers with Credential Attainment |
|-------|---------|-----------------------|--|
| GED | 6,760 | 6,314 | 93.40% |
| HiSET | 390 | 317 | 81.28% |
| TASC | 20 | 23 | 115% * |
| Total | 7,170 | 6,654 | 92.80% |

Credential attainment requires high school equivalency candidates to complete and pass both the full battery of a high school equivalency exam (GED®, HiSET®, or TASC™) and the U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test.

The U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test is a requirement of graduation for Illinois high school students mandated by the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-3). Therefore, the exam is similarly required of all Illinois high school equivalency candidates who wish to obtain the state-recognized high school equivalency credential.

Data on credential attainment was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database.

*Credential attainment is calculated using the *date on which candidates completed all requirements*. Credential attainment and completion of the HSE battery may occur during different calendar years, if the final requirement a candidate completes is the U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test, causing a larger number of “credentialed” test takers than “passers”.

Illinois High School Equivalency Demographics

Illinois Test Takers by Age Range

The minimum age to take a high school equivalency exam without restriction in the State of Illinois is eighteen (18).

Seventeen (17) year old test takers may take a high school equivalency exam after providing proof of withdrawal from the last public or private school they attended, demonstrating they (1) are not currently enrolled in a high school setting and (2) are no longer required to be enrolled in a high school setting.

Sixteen (16) year old candidates are not allowed to take a high school equivalency exam unless enrolled in an Alternative Learning Opportunities Program or Regional Safe Schools Program (alternative high schools authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education) or the Lincoln's Challenge Academy (alternative military high school sponsored by the Illinois National Guard).

Complete eligibility requirements for high school equivalency testing in Illinois are available on the [High School Equivalency Page of the ICCB website \(http://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=489\)](http://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=489).

Demographic data on age was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, which receives reported data from all three vendors. Due to reporting variations among vendors, data may vary from overall performance numbers.

Table 3: Illinois Test Takers by Age Range, Calendar Year 2018

| Age | GED | HiSET | TASC | Total |
|-------|--------|-------|------|--------|
| 16 | 108 | 0 | 5 | 113 |
| 17 | 1,023 | 67 | 12 | 1,102 |
| 18 | 1,475 | 129 | 1 | 1,605 |
| 19 | 1,043 | 78 | 4 | 1,125 |
| 20-24 | 3,187 | 200 | 6 | 3,393 |
| 25-29 | 2,067 | 148 | 5 | 2,220 |
| 30-34 | 1,501 | 106 | 3 | 1,610 |
| 35-39 | 1,171 | 87 | 1 | 1,259 |
| 40-49 | 1,279 | 122 | 1 | 1,402 |
| 50-59 | 401 | 53 | 1 | 455 |
| 60+ | 88 | 20 | 0 | 108 |
| Total | 13,343 | 1,010 | 39 | 14,392 |

Illinois Test Takers by Gender

Demographic data on gender was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, which receives reported data from all three vendors. Due to reporting variations among vendors, data may vary from overall performance numbers.

Table 4: Illinois Test Takers by Gender, Calendar Year 2018

| Gender | GED | HiSET | TASC | Total |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Female | 6,236 | 598 | 19 | 6,853 |
| Male | 6,448 | 410 | 20 | 6,878 |
| Declined | 659 | 2 | 0 | 661 |
| Total | 13,343 | 1010 | 39 | 14,392 |

Illinois Test Takers by Race/Ethnicity

Demographic data on gender was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, which receives reported data from all three vendors. Due to reporting variations among vendors, data may vary from overall performance numbers.

Demographic data for Hispanic and Latino test takers is collected in a different manner for the HiSET® exam than for the GED® and TASC™ exams. GED® and TASC™ intake questionnaires include Hispanic/Latino as a selection under the category “race”. The HiSET® intake questionnaire includes Hispanic/Latino as a secondary category under Ethnicity, meaning Hispanic and Latino test takers are likely to select “White” or “Other” as their primary racial demographic. This difference in data collection means Hispanic and Latino test takers may be underreported for the HiSET® exam.

The Illinois High School Equivalency Database does not currently capture a second data point for Ethnicity. This is planned for a future update; therefore, this report will be edited with updated data as it becomes available.

Table 5: Illinois Test Takers by Race/Ethnicity, Calendar Year 2018

| Race/Ethnicity | GED | HiSET | TASC | Total |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| American Indian | 137 | 23 | 0 | 160 |
| Asian | 322 | 17 | 0 | 339 |
| Black or African American | 2,667 | 379 | 8 | 3,054 |
| Hispanic or Latino* | 4,021 | 8 | 5 | 4,034 |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 26 | 4 | 0 | 30 |
| White | 4,364 | 253 | 19 | 4,636 |
| Two or More Races | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other | 2 | 134 | 0 | 136 |
| Prefer Not to Respond | 3 | 185 | 0 | 188 |
| Unknown | 1,414 | 5 | 7 | 1,426 |
| Null/Not Provided | 385 | 2 | 0 | 387 |
| Total | 13,343 | 1010 | 39 | 14,392 |