



ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DATA

CALENDAR YEAR 2019

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 2019, which spans from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

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 2019

Exam	Test Takers	Completers	Passers	IL Pass Rate	National Pass Rate
GED	12,473	7,865	6,045	77.0%	79.0%
HiSET	928	544	403	74.1%	N/A
TASC	40	31	22	71.0%	N/A
Total	13,441	8,440	6,470	76.7%	N/A

Table 2: Illinois HSE Performance, Calendar Year 2016-2019 Comparison

Year	Test Takers	Completers	Passers	IL Pass Rate	National Pass Rate (GED®)
2016	15,513	9,807	7,525	76.7%	80.0%
2017	14,778	9,363	7,139	76.2%	79.0%
2018	14,345	9,223	7,170	77.7%	80.0%
2019	13,441	8,440	6,470	76.7%	79.0%

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 individual exams. For total Illinois HSE performance, the GED® pass rate is used.

Table 3: Illinois Credential Attainment, Calendar Year 2019

Exam	Passers	Credential Attainment	Percentage of Passers with Credential Attainment
GED	6,045	5,535	91.56%
HiSET	403	308	76.43%
TASC	22	23	105% *
Total	6,470	5,868	90.70%

Table 4: Illinois Credential Attainment, Calendar Year 2016-2019 Comparison

Year	Passers	Credential Attainment	Percentage of Passers with Credential Attainment
2016	7,525	6,986	92.8%
2017	7,139	6,635	92.9%
2018	7,170	6,654	92.8%
2019	6,470	5,868	90.7%

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 5: Illinois Test Takers by Age Range, Calendar Year 2019

Age	GED	HiSET	TASC	Total
16	143	0	8	151
17	883	64	13	960
18	1,329	126	5	1,460
19	1,023	84	3	1,110
20-24	2,819	171	2	2,992
25-29	1,895	135	2	2,032
30-34	1,406	84	3	1,493
35-39	1,123	73	2	1,198
40-49	1,343	122	1	1,466
50-59	425	47	0	472
60+	96	24	0	120
Total	12,485	930	39	13,454

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 6: Illinois Test Takers by Gender, Calendar Year 2019

Gender	GED	HiSET	TASC	Total
Female	5,780	555	15	6,350
Male	6,024	372	24	6,420
Declined	681	3	0	684
Total	12,485	930	39	13,454

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 7: Illinois Test Takers by Race/Ethnicity, Calendar Year 2019

Race/Ethnicity	GED	HiSET	TASC	Total
American Indian	108	21	1	130
Asian	301	15	1	317
Black or African American	2,428	410	5	2,843
Hispanic or Latino*	3,851	7	8	3,866
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	29	2	0	31
White	4,158	189	18	4,365
Two or More Races	2	0	0	2
Other	0	100	0	100
Prefer Not to Respond	4	180	0	184
Unknown	1,265	4	6	1,275
Null/Not Provided	339	2	0	341
Total	12,485	930	39	13,454