



TEST ASSESSING SECONDARY COMPLETION (TASC™)



Let's get to work.

OACES

Office of Adult & Career Education Services
Rochester City School District

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WHAT IS ADULT EDUCATION?

Adult Education is instruction, often at no cost, for adult students who want to improve their employability, education, or English language skills. Adult Education programs offer basic reading, writing, math, and problem-solving classes, English language lessons, employment preparation and training, Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) preparation, and other basic educational services for adult students. Adult Education includes Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary Education (ASE) as well as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL / ESL).

Adult Education programs are for adults 16 years of age and older who are not in school, who have academic skills below the 12th grade level, and/or who need help learning English. The goal of Adult Education is to help adults reach their full potential as workers, family members, and citizens.

Adult Education is funded in part by the federal and state governments, with local and community support. Many programs receive grant funding from private and corporate sources. The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) unit oversees Adult Education programs in New York. ACCES works with public schools, community-based organizations, colleges, correctional facilities, and other agencies to provide Adult Education services.

In Rochester, the Office of Adult and Career Education Services (OACES) is a workforce preparation organization that helps adult students learn the skills they need for success in the workplace and outside the classroom.

With unique focus on the education and employment needs of New York State's adult citizens, several vital interests and goals can be best served through:

- Ensuring that the needs of adults and out-of-school youth are met through efficient and effective access to relevant services, programs, and opportunities offered by the NYSED.
- Encouraging full participation of adults with disabilities.

- Enhancing post-secondary transitions by developing the capacity of individuals to engage in post-secondary education leading to high-quality employment opportunities.
- Promoting workforce investment through unified collaboration with the New York State Department of Labor and State and local Workforce Investment Boards to assure that individuals have access to a “one-stop” source for a full range of services leading to high-quality employment opportunities.
- Supporting individuals experiencing poverty and relying on public services to develop their capacity to earn income and develop assets toward greater economic independence.
- Utilizing a more comprehensive and effective representation for adults in coordinating services and program initiatives with New York State agencies such as the Departments of Labor and Health, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), the Office of Children and Family Services, and the State University of New York (SUNY).

There are multiple literacies addressed by Adult Education.

- Survival Literacy



- Oral/Speaking and Written Literacy
- Cultural/Social and Civic Literacy
- Workplace and Employment Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Technological and Digital/Electronic Literacy
- Geographic Literacy
- Media Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Scientific Literacy

The importance of each of these literacies in an individual's life

varies based on specific circumstances. They all, however, have the potential to greatly affect the life of every adult and his/her family. Literacy begins within the family and is reinforced, whether positively or negatively, in subsequent generations. Adult Education seeks to reinforce, promote, and support literacy to help adults reach their full potential as workers, family members, and citizens and in turn continue the cycle of literacy into the future.

Adult Education provides for the Community in numerous ways:

- Adult Education programs benefit businesses, workers, and job seekers. Businesses encourage Adult Education in order to provide and sustain a highly skilled and specialized workforce a workforce with the skills to perform a variety of tasks or workers with “cross-functional” skills. Workers may receive promotions, gain more power in the job market, or become more valuable employees by enrolling in Adult Education programs.
- Adult Education training facilities often house state-of-the-art equipment such as computers and computer-based training equipment.
- Adult Education programs benefit families. Increased literacy and skills translate to a higher earnings potential for the household. Parents’ literacy levels directly correlate to their children’s educational success (according to the National Center for Families Learning).

TEST ASSESSING SECONDARY COMPLETION (TASC™)

What is the TASC?

The Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™) is a national High School Equivalency (HSE) examination developed by CTB/ McGraw Hill that replaces the previous General Education Development (GED®) test. In New York State, the GED® test is no longer the path to a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED).

The test is available to the 40 million adults in the United States who did not graduate from high school or to those whose diplomas may not be recognized by New York State (NYS).

In New York State, the TASC™ is offered in English and Spanish. When candidates pass the TASC™ test in Spanish in NYS, they receive a HSED with a designation of Spanish.

The Exam

The TASC includes five sections:

- Language Arts – Reading
- Language Arts – Writing (which includes an essay)
- Mathematics (which includes a calculator section and a section in which calculators are not allowed)
- Science (calculators are permitted)
- Social Studies

Learning Standards

The TASC™ is based on Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) for Mathematics and English Language Arts and other national standards for Science and Social Studies. The CCLS are considered more rigorous than the previous learning standards used throughout the state, and are better determiners of success in a career or college.

Examinees should expect a more rigorous test based on these standards. Specifically, many exam questions are more demanding, complex and may require multiple steps to solve. Although examinees may find that the TASC™ questions are more difficult than the questions they may have experienced on the GED®, the score needed to pass the new TASC™ exam accounts for this increased difficulty. Specifically, the number of correct answers required to pass a TASC™ section is lower than the number of correct answers required to pass the corresponding GED® section.

When Did the TASC Become Available?

The TASC™ test was launched in January 2014.

Cost of the Test

The HSE exam is FREE of charge to NYS residents.

Delivery Formats

- Paper-and-pencil
- On-line

Note: Three TASC™ test forms are available each year in English and Spanish with accommodations including large print, Braille, and audio.

Who Can Take the High School Equivalency Test?

Anyone who is 19 years of age or older and is without a high school diploma or HSE diploma and who has resided in New York State for at least thirty days is eligible to take the HSE/TASC™. Special rules and eligibility requirements allow testing for those under 19 years of age, but not younger than 16.

How Long Does the Test Take?

The TASC™ takes about nine hours to complete and is usually administered over two days.

If one or more of the five subject area sub-tests are not passed,

those parts may be retaken after 60 days. First time test takers must complete all five sub-tests. In most cases the HSE exam may be taken up to three times in a calendar year.

Taking the HSE/TASC Test

Paper and Pencil

The TASC™ test is only given at official TASC™ testing centers approved by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). To apply to take the HSE in NYS, examinees must download and fill out the attachments, including eligibility documents if under 19 years of age. The New York State HSE Office of the NYSED coordinates TASC™ test administration throughout NYS. OACES is an official HSE/TASC™ preparation program and testing center.

Notes:

- The difficulty level of the test questions varies.
- The essay will be scored based on a rubric.
- The Texas Instrument TI 30XS™ scientific calculator will be provided during testing for one section of math and for the entire science section. Familiarity with the calculator is strongly suggested.

Scoring

- Immediate scoring for computer-based tests.
- Paper-based and written tests are sent to CTB/McGraw-Hill and returned within 6 weeks.

Who Issues the Diplomas?

The HSE Office in Albany is the only entity approved to issue a HSED in NYS. If diplomas and/or transcripts are obtained from a source other than the HSE Office, they are not legitimate documents. Candidates who possess them cannot use them for any academic or vocational purposes (e.g. to obtain or upgrade a job, to enter a training program, to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, or to enter into a post-secondary institution, college, or university, etc.).

TASC™ results will be distributed approximately 5 to 6 weeks from the

date of testing. Some results may take longer due to errors requiring manual reconciliation of records to insure accuracy.

Note: the NYSED is responsible for maintaining GED® testing records (which date back to the 1950's) and TASC™ testing records.

Grandfathering GED® Test Scores

A candidate may use up to four passing GED® sub-tests (score of 410 or above) taken between 2002-2013 to count towards earning a NYS HSED. The use of these scores will be allowed until 2016. Each TASC™ sub-test that the candidate passes will be posted on the candidate's transcript. If the candidate does not pass the TASC™ sub-test but passed the same GED® sub-test, the GED® score will be accepted as a passing score. If a candidate has already passed all five GED® sub-tests but did not attain the minimum total score of 2250, such candidate must pass at least one of the TASC™ sub-tests to obtain a NYS HSED.

Additional Resources

Adult Ed Compass

www.adultedcompass.org

Center for Applied Linguistics

www.cal.org

Engage NY

www.engageny.org

Prepare You for the TASC Test

www.tasctest.com/preparation-materials-for-test-takers.html

Sources

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services

www.acces.nysed.gov

CTB/McGraw Hill Education

www.ctb.com

TASC Test Assessing Secondary Completion - The New National High School Equivalency Exam

www.tasctest.com



DISCOVER THE EXCELLENCE



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