Illinois High School Equivalency

Caitlyn Barnes
Director for High School Equivalency
Illinois Community College Board
TOPICS

• HSE Testing Data

• COVID-19 Changes
  ▪ In-Person Requirements
  ▪ Online Options
  ▪ Constitution Test

• HSE Testing Discount

• TASC™

• Housekeeping
High School Equivalency Testing Data

GED®, HiSET®, and TASC™
**Fiscal Year 2020**

### HSE Testing in Illinois: Fiscal Year 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Test Takers</th>
<th>Completers</th>
<th>Passers</th>
<th>IL Pass Rate</th>
<th>National Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GED®</td>
<td>9,175</td>
<td>5,283</td>
<td>3,916</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HiSET®</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TASC™</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,849</td>
<td>5,625</td>
<td>4,139</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Compared to FY 2019:
  • HSE testing was unavailable in FY’20 between 3/27/2020 and 6/5/2020, with the exception of corrections facilities, due to COVID-19. In-person testing resumed on 6/15/2020.
  • Overall testing volume was down about 28%
  • Pass rate was down 3%, consistent with a national decline
### Comparing Fiscal Years

#### Total HSE Testing in Illinois: Fiscal Year Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Test Takers</th>
<th>Completers</th>
<th>Passers</th>
<th>IL Pass Rate (all tests)</th>
<th>National Pass Rate (GED®)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY’15</td>
<td>12,183</td>
<td>6,643</td>
<td>3,913</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>GED® Only</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY’16</td>
<td>14,637</td>
<td>9,705</td>
<td>7,643</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>GED® Only</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY’17</td>
<td>14,997</td>
<td>9,642</td>
<td>7,389</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY’18</td>
<td>14,328</td>
<td>9,219</td>
<td>7,048</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY’19</td>
<td>13,617</td>
<td>8,687</td>
<td>6,725</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY’20</td>
<td>9,849</td>
<td>5,625</td>
<td>4,139</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CALENDAR YEAR 2020 THUS FAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Test Takers</th>
<th>Completers</th>
<th>Passers</th>
<th>IL Pass Rate</th>
<th>National Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GED®</td>
<td>5,273</td>
<td>2,664</td>
<td>1,858</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HiSET®</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,591</td>
<td>2,803</td>
<td>1,929</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- TASC™ data unavailable due to low volume.
- HSE testing was unavailable in Illinois from 3/27/2020 to 6/5/2020, with the exception of corrections facilities. In-person testing resumed on 6/15/2020.
- Compared to this time frame in CY 2018:
  - Overall testing volume down by 47%
  - Pass rate down (69% vs 75%)
  - IL pass rate trending as it typically does compared to the national average.
COVID-19 Changes

Updates to HSE Testing Policies and Options
IN-PERSON REQUIREMENTS

• All sites open to test takers must abide by the following guidelines:
  ▪ Social distancing (minimum of 6ft)
  ▪ Groups of 10 or fewer
  ▪ Masks **required** for all staff, proctors, and test candidates
    o Test candidates should be asked to pull down the facial covering from a minimum 6ft distance once during the check-in process to verify ID.
    o Masks may be examined according to vendor guidelines for test security, or the test center may supply its own new masks to test takers.
  ▪ Conduct in-person health screenings following IDPH guidelines: [https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/checklists3/screening.pdf](https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/checklists3/screening.pdf)
  ▪ Regularly clean all common high touch areas and materials
  ▪ Provide readily available hand sanitizer & sanitizing products


• Test centers may be required to follow additional vendor guidelines for safe testing during COVID-19.
Online Testing Options

• Online-proctored test options are now available for both GED® and HiSET®.

• Both exams require:
  ▪ Laptop or desktop computer with a microphone and camera
  ▪ Stable internet connection
  ▪ Closed, quiet room with no interruptions

• Candidates must meet Illinois residency requirements, cannot have a high school diploma, and must be fully withdrawn from high school.

• Other age and eligibility requirements differ by exam.
GED® OnVUE

- Price: $120
- GED Ready practice test score in the Green ("ready to test") is required for each subject
- Available for ages 16+
  - Minors must have a parent or guardian available during the check-in process or will be unable to start their exam
  - State requirements for withdrawal documentation still apply!
    - 17 year olds must provide withdrawal documentation from their last public/private high school
    - 16 year olds are not eligible to test unless currently enrolled in an ALOP, RSSP, or Lincoln’s Challenge Academy
- Available in English (Spanish release pending)
- Register and schedule on www.ged.com through the candidate’s GED profile. OnVUE scheduling options will not be available until the candidate has completed GED Ready
HiSET® Exam at Home

• Price: $141.25
• No practice test score required (although recommended)
• Available for ages 18+
• Available in English and Spanish
• Register on www.hiset.ets.org through the candidate’s HiSET profile. The candidate will be directed to ProctorU to complete registration and schedule their exam time.
HOW ARE CANDIDATES TESTING?

GED Testing: June 1 - September 18, 2020
- In-Person: 76%
- Corrections: 5%
- Online: 19%

HiSET Testing: June 1 - September 18, 2020
- In-Person: 57%
- Corrections: 2%
- Online: 41%
CONSTITUTION TEST

• The U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test is required of all HSE candidates.

• This test must be proctored in-person.

• ICCB is maintaining a map of Constitution Test sites accepting appointments:
  https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1AaMkyi0l_oDmBWglQ9pMLosV1ajx4Mpy&usp=sharing
  ▪ Select any point on the map to open test site contact information
  ▪ Please notify Caitlyn Barnes (Caitlyn.E.Barnes@Illinois.gov) of any changes to site availability

• A provisional waiver of the Constitution Test requirement is available for HSE candidates who live in an area where testing is not available
  ▪ The provisional waiver is a letter that may be attached to official transcripts
  ▪ HSE Certificate is not available until the requirement is complete
  ▪ Waiver must be requested from Regional Office of Education
HSE Testing Discount
HSE Discount: Overview

- The ICCB released over $500,000 in grant funding on August 31, 2020 to reduce the cost of GED® and HiSET® tests for Illinois residents
- Provides $80 off the full battery of tests
  - $20 off each GED subject
  - $16 off each HiSET subject
- Applies to tests purchased at full price (cannot be applied to discounted retakes)
- Promotion is available until funding is depleted (no set expiration date)
- Available to all Illinois test takers, whether testing in-person or online
# HSE Discount: GED®

## Test Prices Calendar Year 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GED® CBT</th>
<th>GED® OnVue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vendor Fees</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Center Fees</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Battery Price</strong></td>
<td><strong>$120</strong></td>
<td><strong>$120</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Battery Price After Discount</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Register and schedule for the GED® exam online at [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com)
- At checkout, candidates must enter the discount code ILSAVE20
- The discount *can* be used with vouchers if the vouchers are in the *exact* amount remaining to pay ($10 per subject).
- Programs cannot apply full price vouchers ($30 per subject) and the discount code at the same time. Full-price vouchers nearing expiration can be extended by contacting GED Testing Service.
# HSE Discount: HiSET®

## Test Prices Calendar Year 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HiSET® CBT</th>
<th>HiSET® PBT</th>
<th>HiSET® Exam at Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vendor Fees</strong></td>
<td>$53.75</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$53.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Test Center Fees</strong></td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$87.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Battery Price</strong></td>
<td>$93.75</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>$141.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Battery Price After Discount</strong></td>
<td>$13.75</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$61.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- To use the discount, candidates must call Education Testing Services customer support hotline: 1-855-MyHISET (1-855-694-4738)
- The discount *cannot* be combined with vouchers; candidates must pay the remaining amount using a credit or debit card.
- AE program vouchers nearing expiration can be extended by contacting ETS.
TASC™ will no longer be available in Illinois as of December 31, 2020

Candidates with partial completion of the TASC™ exam were notified using contact information provided during registration.

Candidates have until December 31, 2020 to complete their TASC™ exam or must transition to GED® or HiSET®.

Partial TASC™ scores cannot be combined with GED® or HiSET® scores.

All completed TASC™ credentials will remain valid.

Test centers currently offering the TASC™ exam are highly encouraged to apply to offer the GED® and/or HiSET® exams.
Housekeeping

General HSE Information & Best Practices
BECOMING A TESTING SITE

• Your organizations may apply to offer any combination of the HSE exams (GED® and HiSET®).

• Forms are available in your Adult Education Provider Manual or on the ICCB website at the following locations:
  ▪ HSE website for Administrators and ROEs: https://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/illinois-high-school-equivalency/administrators-and-roes/
GED MANAGER

• GED Manager access is available to staff at ICCB-funded adult education programs
• Do not use the form on GED.com to request access
• Request forms are available in your Adult Education Provider Manual or on the ICCB website at the following locations:
  ▪ HSE website for Administrators and ROEs: https://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/illinois-high-school-equivalency/administrators-and-roes/
• AE Administrators must approve access for their staff and are responsible for staff members’ use of the information available through GED Manager
• Please remember to inform ICCB staff of changes in staffing!
WITHDRAWAL DOCUMENTATION

• Required for minors, whether testing in-person or online.

• Withdrawal letters for underage test takers must:
  ▪ Be on school letterhead
  ▪ Be signed by a school official (principal, registrar, etc.)
  ▪ Include the candidate’s full name and date of birth (which must match the information on the HSE account)
  ▪ Include the candidate’s withdrawal date

• Transcripts are not acceptable as proof of withdrawal unless they include the formal withdrawal date and signature of a school official.

• Please remember HiSET test takers must provide their ETS ID.

• If you are submitting documentation on behalf of your student, please ensure they have first created an account!
In the time of COVID-19, ICCB staff continue to work primarily remotely.

It is strongly encouraged to reach out for HSE support by email:

- To reach Caitlyn Barnes, Director for High School Equivalency: Caitlyn.E.Barnes@Illinois.gov
- To submit withdrawal documentation or database access requests: ilhseiccb@iccb.state.il.us
  - Documentation sent by fax will continue to be processed, but may be delayed.
- To request technical support for the ILHSE database: customerservice@cookcountyhse.org
- For issues related to DAISI/Pentaho: daisisupport@cait.org or Cecilia.Elhaddad@illinois.gov
Questions?

Caitlyn Barnes
Caitlyn.E.Barnes@Illinois.gov