

# Frequently Asked Questions about the 2014 GED® in Maryland

*Prepared by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
& the Job Opportunities Task Force*

## Important Dates & Closeout of the 2002 Test

- **When will the new GED® be in place?**

The new test will be introduced in January 2014, by the national GED Testing Service, throughout the United States. The GED® tests are revised every decade. When a new test is introduced, the old test is retired.

Those who have taken the 2002 Series GED® test, but not passed all five parts, have until the end of 2013 to pass or they will need to start over again in 2014 with the new GED® test in order to receive their high school credential.

- **What is the deadline to register for the paper version of the 2002 GED® test?**

First-time testers must register for the paper version of the test by September 16, 2013. Re-testers must register by October 31, 2013. Applications must be complete with all documentation and fees.

These deadlines do not apply to the computer-based version of the 2002 test. The deadlines to take the current test via computer will be determined by GED Testing Service. We do not know this deadline yet, but will keep programs informed as we get information.

- **Will the GED® office be shutting down in November and December after registration for the 2002 test stops?**

*The GED® Office is not shutting down.* We will continue to be available to answer calls and emails. We will continue to administer testing and issue results for the 2002 test through December, and for the 2014 version thereafter.

- **I heard that students can re-take a part of the test for free through the end of August. Is this true? Is this only for computer-based tests?**

Through an offer from GED Testing Service, students who take the 2002 test via computer may to re-take one individual subject test without additional fees. Testers must take the test the first time by August 31. See <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/secondshot/>

- **Is DLLR doing outreach to let students know about the expiration of the 2002 GED®?**

This is happening through websites, brochures and flyers that have been distributed to local adult education programs, One-Stops, libraries and other venues that testers may frequent. Information is also shared with testers who do not pass all sections of the test.

## Cost

- **Is the cost going up? Will the state be subsidizing the cost?**  
The testing fee charged by GED Testing Service is going up to \$120, but the state is providing a subsidy to hold the cost constant for test-takers. The state has been subsidizing the cost of administering the paper test and will continue to subsidize the cost of the computer test in January 2014.
- **How much will students have to pay in 2014?**  
The fee will be \$45 to take all 4 subject area tests. For any individual subject area test, the fee will be \$11.25. The tester will be charged the fees above upon registration.

## Registration

- **How will students register for the 2014 test?**  
Students register online at: <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/test-on-computer>
- **Do students need an email to sign up for the GED®?**  
Yes. The registration for CBT is online and all communication with the tester is via email.
- **If you are an immigrant without a Social Security number, can you register with an ITIN?**  
You do not need an SSN to register. If someone does have an SSN, however, DLLR strongly recommends that they provide it at registration. The registration is secure and without the SSN, DLLR is unable to match the success to their grantee instructional data and report outcomes. Additionally, DLLR is unable to do aggregate level studies involving the success of GED® grads. DLLR NEVER reports any data by student name or any identifying characteristics without authorization from that individual.
- **How will students show proof of high school withdrawal with the online registration process?**  
Testers under age 19 must submit proof of high school withdrawal to the GED® testing office at DLLR.

## Testing

- **Have the 2014 computer-based testing (CBT) sites been finalized yet?**  
Organizations are in the application process to become CBT sites throughout the state, so the list is not final. DLLR is analyzing the historical testing levels within jurisdictions to indicate the capacity needed, and is working to ensure there is adequate capacity of CBT centers to meet the demand.  
  
The 2002 version of the test is already being offered by computer at Anne Arundel Community College, Howard Community College, and the College of Southern Maryland.
- **What are the proposed testing sites for Baltimore City?**  
Digit All Systems at 200 East Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD is currently set up to offer computer based GED® testing. Other sites are in the application process.

- **Who should I contact if I am interested in creating a testing site?**  
Please contact Patricia Tyler: ptyler@dllr.state.md.us or 410.767.1008
- **What calculators may be used for the test? Will it be provided or do students need to bring their own?**  
Students may use an onscreen or a handheld calculator. The Texas instrument TI-30xs is the onscreen calculator and will be provided to all testers.  
  
The approved handheld calculator is the Casio FX 260. According to gedtestingservice.com, testers may bring their own handheld calculator, but it must be the model specified. Please go to <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/ticalc> for specific information.
- **Is it true that no scratch paper can be used? What are “white boards” and is it true that you can only use one at a time?**  
Students will use erasable white boards for notes and problem solving during the test. Just as with scratch paper on the current test, you are only able to have one at a time.
- **What accommodations are available for students with disabilities?**  
Extended time (the most commonly requested), audio, large print - primarily the same accommodations as for paper testing. Accommodations requests are sent through DLLR, but the determinations are made by the GED Testing Service.
- **Are foreign language tests available? Can students take the whole test in a foreign language?**  
The test will be available in Spanish, although the Language Arts section will be given in English.
- **Other states will be offering alternatives to the GED®. Will this be happening in Maryland?**  
Maryland will continue to offer the GED® tests and the National External Diploma Program in 2014. Successful completers receive a Maryland High School Diploma, jointly signed by the President of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.  
  
Any alternative measurement of high school equivalency would have to be jointly studied by these two entities and the Department of Education would need to assure that the measure is indicative of current high school curriculum requirements. There are no plans to implement any alternatives in 2014, but in accordance with a bill passed in this year’s legislative session, DLLR will be providing a report on alternatives to the legislature.

## Results:

- **What is a passing score on the new GED®?**  
Each of the four subject area tests has a passing score of 150, and a maximum score of 200. 600 total points will be required for passing the entire battery.

- **How will students get test results? How long will it take?**

For the computer version of the 2002 tests, testers are receiving score results immediately upon finishing the test, except for the essay which may take up to 3 days to receive. Students receive an email alerting them that their scores are available.

For the 2014 tests, within a few hours of testing the student will receive an email notification that the scores are available, and will then be able to access scores by logging into their account at GED Testing Service.

- **How will programs receive the GED® test scores for reporting purposes? Can anything be done to reach out to students who did not disclose test results to their program?**

DLLR is working to develop program reports for the 2014 tests, and the exact format and procedure are not finalized. DLLR is happy to receive input on how to make the reports the most useful for providers – please contact Patricia Tyler (ptyler@dllr.state.md.us or 410.767.1008).

DLLR cannot provide any information about the individuals or their test results unless the individual has authorized them to release information.

## Test Prep:

- **Will there be 2014 GED® specific materials/curriculum, including materials for students? When will they be available?**

The adult education office at DLLR has trained a cadre of 26 Instructors and Instructional Specialists who are experienced in adult education instruction and training. In the near future, DLLR will be distributing information to grantees regarding the availability of training events. For instructional programs that are not in the DLLR grantee network, please contact the adult education office to learn about the training opportunities for your program:

Patricia Tyler (ptyler@dllr.state.md.us or 410.767.1008) or  
Michelle Frazier (mfrazier@dllr.state.md.us or 410.767.0161)

GED Testing Service does not provide preparation materials, but a large amount of curriculum guidance is posted on the gedtestingservice.com website. A number of publishers are introducing new materials to meet the need for GED® test preparation. Many items are currently available.

- **Will there be an approved list of textbooks/learning materials?**

DLLR is interested in working with the Maryland Association of Adult Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) to see if they can provide a forum for instructional programs that have acquired some of the materials.

- **Will there be an official practice test? When will it be available? Will there be both paper and computer options? What will the cost be?**

GED® Ready is the practice test that will be distributed by the GED Testing Service. It is an online test, expected to be released in November. The most current information on

cost is that each of the four sections will be priced at \$6 if ordered by an individual, or \$4 if the ordered at an instructional program.

- **Are there resources or suggested methods for teaching computer skills and keyboarding?**

DLLR’s professional development will include information on the computer skills necessary for the test.

There are products available that simplify keyboarding instruction and again, DLLR would like to see sharing among programs—some providers for example have already identified some good tools. For the CAELS grantees, stand-alone computer literacy classes are not permitted under the grant, however computer instruction may be integrated with the academic instruction.

- **How should programs teach learners in the fall of 2013, while the 2002 test is still available, but many will take the 2014 version?**

A careful analysis of readiness for the 2002 test is critical at this point in time, keeping in mind the deadlines for registration. As for the fall, most of the learners will be preparing for the 2014 test. Training will be available to instructors in the very near future.

- **What will be on the test? How many writing assignments are part of the test?**

Please refer to the following tables for details on the contents of the test.

**Table 1: Overview of Each of the Four GED® Tests**

	Reasoning through Language Arts (RLA)	Mathematical Reasoning	Science	Social Studies
<i>Which item types are on the test?</i>	Multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, drop-down, drag-and-drop, and extended response	Multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, drop-down, drag-and-drop, and hot spot	Multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, drop-down, drag-and-drop, hot spot, and short answer	Multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, drop-down, drag-and-drop, hot spot and extended response
<i>Is writing required?</i>	Yes, one extended response item, about 45 minutes	No, not beyond fill-in-the-blank.	Yes, two short answer questions, about 10 minutes each.	Yes, one extended response item, about 25 minutes.
<i>Are calculations expected?</i>	No.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.

**Table 2: Extended Response Items in the RLA and Social Studies Tests**

	Reasoning through Language Arts	Social Studies
<i>How many extended response items are on this test?</i>	1	1
<i>What amount of time is recommended for the extended response item?</i>	About 45 minutes	About 25 minutes
<i>Will text be presented for the test taker to read critically and cite as evidence in the written response?</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Will the test-taker's opinion or viewpoint be asked?</i>	No	No
<i>How many points is the extended response item worth?</i>	Up to 12 points	Up to 7 points
<i>How many points is each trait of the rubric worth?</i>		
<i>Rubric Trait 1: Analysis of Arguments and Use of Evidence</i>	1 – 4 points	1 – 3 points
<i>Rubric Trait 2: Development of Ideas and Organizational Structure</i>	1 – 4 points	1 – 2 points; to earn 2 points, writing does not need to be flawless.
<i>Rubric Trait 3: Clarity and Command of Standard English Conventions</i>	1 – 4 points	1 – 2 points; to earn 2 points, writing does not need to be flawless.