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High School Equivalency Tests (HSET)

California has approved the use of three high school equivalency tests (GED®, HiSET®, and TASC™) for students 18 years old and older, and 17 years old in some instances, for the purpose of receiving a California High School Equivalency Certificate.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked questions regarding the California High School Equivalency (HSE) Test.

HSE Test Options

What are my options for the HSE Test?

In California, you have three options for the HSE Test:

- The General Educational Development Test ([GED®](#)) [↗](#)
- The High School Equivalency Test ([HiSET®](#)) [↗](#)
- The Test Assessing Secondary Completion ([TASC™](#)) [↗](#)

State Requirements and Policies

How old do I need to be to take the test?

In California, the minimum age required to take the HSE Test is 18 unless you meet any one of the following criteria:

- You are within 60 days of your 18th birthday.
- You are 17 years of age, have been out of school for at least 60 consecutive days, and provide a letter of request for the test from the military, a postsecondary educational institution, or employer that states the need for you to take a HSE Test.
- You are at least 17 years of age, have accumulated fewer than 100 units of high school credit and are confined to state or county hospital or correctional agency and you meet all of the following criteria:
 - ◆ You have adequate academic skills to successfully complete the HSE Test.

- ◊ You understand the options available regarding acquisition of a high school diploma, the High School Equivalency Certificate, or the High School Proficiency Certificate, and the requirements, expectations, benefits, and limitations of each option.
- ◊ You have sufficient time left to complete the entire HSE Test while confined; however if released before the test is completed, you may complete testing at an authorized testing center.

When will I get my High School Equivalency Certificate if I pass the test as a 17 year old?

If you pass the HSE Test at age 17 you will not receive the High School Equivalency Certificate until your 18th birthday. A letter of intent is issued that states the certificate is being held pending your 18th birthday.

Do I need to prove I am a resident of California to take the test?

Yes, in California you are required to prove you are a resident or a member of the armed forces assigned to duty in the state using a valid form of identification. The following are examples of documents that may be used to meet this requirement:

- Current California driver's license
- Current California identification card
- Current identification card issued by the military (if it includes proof of being stationed in California)
- Current United States government issued documentation (shows city, county, or state)
- Current state and federal tax returns
- Current vehicle registration
- Current utility bill statement
- Current voter registration
- Current bank statement
- Current residential lease

The closest testing center is in a different state. Can I take the test there?

States have different policies on allowing out of state test takers. Also, not all states offer the GED, HiSET and TASC. You will need to check the residency and age requirements for the state you wish to test in to confirm eligibility and test availability.

What happens if I move to a different state in the middle of testing? Can I continue testing in my new state?




States have different policies on allowing out of state test takers and not all states offer the GED, HiSET and TASC. You will need to check the residency and age requirements for the state you wish to test in to confirm that eligibility and test availability.

Do I need to take a class or receive instruction before I can take the test?

California does not require you to prepare for the HSE Test in an adult education class. However, studying in a classroom setting or reviewing official HSE Test preparation materials are good ways to review the topics and areas you will find on the HSE Test.

Where can I find an adult education center and official preparation materials?

Each HSE Test vendor provides information on authorized instructional classes and preparation materials. Please visit the following vendor web sites for further information:

- [The General Educational Development Test \(GED\)](#) 
- [The High School Equivalency Test \(HiSET\)](#) 
- [The Test Assessing Secondary Completion \(TASC\)](#) 

Can I take the test in different formats?

If you are taking the HiSET or TASC, you can take part of the test on paper and part on computer. For example, you may take the math section on paper and the other test sections on computer. Please note not all local authorized testing centers provide both versions of these test.

Can I combine test scores from the GED, HiSET or TASC to get my California High School Equivalency Certificate?

No. You must pass all sections from one of the approved HSE Tests to earn your California High School Equivalency Certificate.

Can I take my HSE Test in Spanish?

Yes. In California you can take the HSE Test in Spanish.

Am I allowed to combine different language versions of the test together?

No. California residents are not allowed to combine different language versions to complete the test. This means you must take all test subjects in one language to earn your California High School Equivalency Certificate.

Does California have any requirements for English as a Second Language?

English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction can help non-native English speakers, but there are not any requirements for ESL classes in California.

My employer or school is not familiar with the HSE Test I passed. What should I do?

In California, the GED, HiSET and TASC are all approved options to get your California High School Equivalency Certificate. The [California Department of Education and the United States Department of Education](#) have released letters for employers and schools.

Registration and Scheduling**How do I register for and schedule a HSE Test?**

Each High School Equivalency Test vendor Web site has information on registration, scheduling procedures, and a list of authorized California testing centers. Access [vendor Web sites](#) for information on registering and scheduling a HSE Test.

Who do I contact if I have questions or issues while registering for the HSE Test?

For registration issues such as clearing alerts, please contact the authorized California testing center where you plan to test. Each vendor Web site has a list of testing centers authorized to provide their HSE Test.

Can I take all of the HSE Test at one time or do I need to setup different appointment times?

In California, you can take all test sections on the same day; however, not all testing centers may be able to schedule the entire test on the same day due to staffing levels and hours of operation. Please contact the authorized California testing center where you plan to test.

Questions: High School and Physical Fitness Assessments Office | HSEOffice@cde.ca.gov | 916-445-9438

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