



NJDOE News

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Advisory Update

GED Test Sponsor Postpones Date for New Exam Series

The General Educational Development (GED) Testing Service has postponed the starting date for a new series of exams. A series of five new national exams was to have debuted in January 2012.

According to the American Council on Education, owners of the GED tests, development of the new battery of tests has been suspended, pending completion of ongoing studies in many states (including New Jersey) to identify the knowledge and skills and high school courses that students must have in order to be successful in a 21st century global economy. A recent statement issued by GEDTS further clarifies this decision:

“Over the past several months the movement towards more rigorous national standards for high school education has gained momentum. This changing national conversation on what it means to be a high school graduate and what is needed to be college and career ready has a direct impact on the GED Test. We must introduce changes and improvements to the GED Test that are aligned with this new direction, according to the statement.

“As a result, we will not introduce a GED Test, 5th Edition, on January 1, 2012. Because of the changing national landscape we have decided to transition directly from the current 2002 Test Series to a new, more comprehensive assessment program. This new program, GED 20/20, will dramatically increase the number of test-takers and GED credential recipients who are prepared to pursue postsecondary education opportunities. Elements of the new program will be introduced as early as 2010.”

GED diploma candidates in New Jersey must pass all five sections of the test in the content areas of science, social studies, reading, mathematics and writing in order to allow them to obtain a New Jersey state-issued high school diploma. Current New Jersey passing score requirements can be found at:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/students/adulted/cp/>

Frequently asked questions and additional information about the GED can be found on the internet at:

http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/National_Needs_Announcement_FAQS.pdf

NOTE: This advisory updates a news release originally posted on August 13, 2009:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2009/0813ged.htm>