

## Dear High School Equivalency Candidate,

As you prepare for the challenge of earning your high school equivalency certificate, it's important that you have correct information at your fingertips. You deserve the best chance to earn a credential that can bring you future education and career opportunities.

Part of keeping you informed is reminding you that you are not earning your "GED®"—you are earning a "high school equivalency certificate" issued by your state. **Only a state or tribal education agency can grant a high school equivalency (HSE) certificate.**

In the past, the GED test was the only testing option for states to measure a student's high school academic skills. However, recently several states have adopted alternative tests that enable them to provide lower-cost testing options that are readily accessible to you, and meet the latest standards for earning a high school equivalency certificate. Since 2014, numerous states have adopted TASC Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ because it is more affordable and more widely accessible than the GED test.

Today, 20 states across the country have chosen options either in place of or in addition to the GED test to help students earn their state-issued high school equivalency certificate. For example, New York State only uses TASC test. Other states have chosen to offer all three tests—TASC test, GED test, and HiSET®—and let the test taker decide which one they wish to use. What's important to remember is that all three tests allow someone to earn their high school equivalency (HSE) credential from their state, enter college, or attain employment where a high school credential is required.

We are eager to clarify terminology and processes that can be confusing to you, or even discouraging. And, most importantly, we want to encourage you to pursue your high school equivalency (HSE) credentials even if your state discontinues use of the GED test. Remember, there are other options out there that will achieve the same desired result. And your state may be one that offers less-costly alternatives like TASC test.

To make the best decisions for your future, we want to make sure you have the facts. It is our mission to help you achieve your education and career goals. That's why we developed TASC Test Assessing Secondary Completion. And if you have additional questions for us, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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