

**General Educational Development (GED®)
Basic Requirements for Students Under Age 18**
(Updated July 2014)

1. Title of Credential

General Educational Development High School Equivalency Certificate

2. Requirements (as established by [SDCL 13-27-1](#))

a. **Age:** A child is eligible to enroll in a school-based or school-contracted general educational development test preparation program or take the general educational development test if the child is sixteen or seventeen years of age, and the child presents written permission from the child's parent or guardian **and** one of the following:

- (1) Verification from a school administrator that the child will not graduate with the child's cohort class because of credit deficiency;
- (2) Authorization from a court services officer;
- (3) A court order requiring the child to enter the program;
- (4) Verification that the child is under the direction of the Department of Corrections; or
- (5) Verification that the child is enrolled in Job Corps as authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended to January 1, 2009.

b. School status:

- i. Home schooled students must be registered with their local school district using a Public School Exemption Certificate ([SDCL 13-27-3](#)). Home school students wishing to take the GED® test must submit a signed Underage Testing Waiver to the State GED® Administrator. The Department of Education must verify home school status before the testing request can be approved.
- ii. Students cannot be enrolled in a South Dakota accredited high school at the time of testing. Students must be withdrawn at the time of testing and re-enrolled until they have passed all four sections of the test.
- iii. A foreign exchange student who is 16 or 17 years old may take the GED® test if he or she is no longer enrolled in the host district and presents signed permission from a parent. Permission from the host parent is insufficient unless the host parent is also the legal guardian. The written permission from the legal parent or legal

guardian must be properly notarized by either a notary public in the United States or a comparable entity in the parent/guardian's country of origin.

- c. **Residency:** South Dakota has no residency requirement.
- d. **Verification of identity:** At the time of each testing session, the tester must present a government-issued (national or international) identification that shows name, date of birth, photograph, and signature.

3. General information

- a. **Registration:** All applicants must create a profile at www.ged.com. Scheduling and payment are completed at this site.
- b. **Fees:** Each of the four subtests costs \$32.50, paid at the time of registration. Two re-tests per content area are available at a cost of \$10 each.
- c. **Minimum scores:** Testers must score a minimum of 150 (out of a possible 200) points on each of the four subtests to pass.
- d. **Retesting:** After the initial testing attempt, the test-taker may re-test up to two times in each content area with no wait time between re-tests. After the third attempt, each re-test in an individual content area must be preceded by a 60-day waiting period.
- e. **Transcripts:** Original transcripts and certificates are supplied without charge by GEDTS. Duplicate documents are fulfilled through GEDTS Credentialing Service and can be requested by accessing www.ged.com.
- f. **Individuals with disabilities:** Accommodations are made for test-takers who have physical, mental, sensory, or cognitive disabilities and who provide appropriate documentation of their impairment and its effect on their ability to take the test under standard conditions. Documentation justifying the accommodation must be generated by a professional who is qualified to diagnose and assess the disability. GED Testing Service will review and make the final decision regarding all accommodations requests.
- g. **Other languages:** A Spanish version of the test is available.

Contact information

Barb Unruh, State Administrator
South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
Barb.unruh@state.sd.us
605-773-5017