



To: US GED Administrators™
State Directors of Adult Education
State Directors of Correctional Education

From: Randy Trask, President, GED Testing Service

Subject: GED Testing Service Announces Transitional Waiver Program to Support GED® testing in Corrections

You have heard us say repeatedly since we began work on the vision for the 2014 GED® test and GED® testing on computer that we would not leave correctional systems behind. Today, GED Testing Service is announcing a new program, the Transitional Waiver Program, for correctional systems.

In the last year, GED Testing Service worked with the Correctional Education Association (CEA) on a study of corrections' readiness for GED® testing on computer. The results were conclusive—although many respondents were enthusiastic about the changes in the testing program designed to meet emerging national and state standards—that corrections would require more time for successful implementation. And we've also heard from you and your colleagues in corrections—some correctional systems are unique and challenging environments that make implementing GED® testing on computer by January 2014 virtually impossible.

Taking these circumstances into account, we are announcing the Transitional Waiver program *exclusively* for correctional systems.

- The Transitional Waiver program applies only to corrections and will enable corrections to continue paper-based testing for an agreed upon time period before transitioning to GED® testing on computer.
- In order to be granted a waiver, each state GED® office and the state's correctional system will be required to submit a written plan to GED Testing Service that covers the impacted types of facilities (e.g. local jails or juvenile facilities).
 - The plan must include a target date for transitioning to GED® testing on computer and the key milestones.
- The program includes a formal application that GED Testing Service will evaluate to determine eligibility for the transitional waiver.
- Transitional waivers will be granted based on a limited set of circumstances that will be defined, documented, and communicated to the field.
- Specifics about the waiver application process will be available by **January 4, 2013**; all plans will be due by **March 29, 2013** in order to enable GED Testing Service to understand fully the magnitude and implications of the ongoing support including defining the test administration policies, procedures, and protocols that will be needed for paper-based testing in corrections.

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As we learned more about correctional facilities, we found that our test delivery technology and the infrastructure that correctional facilities have invested in didn't always mesh. A number of correctional systems have implemented virtual server environments that are cutting edge and pose challenges for more traditionally built systems. While we remain confident that GED® testing on computer is viable across a broad range of correctional systems and facilities, we also have to be realistic about the time it may take to develop stable solutions that will perform as expected in these environments. In other instances, correctional facilities have not yet introduced technology. Although these correctional facilities are moving towards making technology available for teaching, learning and testing, they will need more time to implement GED® testing on computer.

There are a number of details—policies, procedures, and processes as well as deadlines and requirements—that still remain to be worked out and documented. However, we wanted to give you a high-level overview of the program that can be shared with your staff and colleagues—particularly those in corrections.

We want to salute our state partners in Arkansas, Colorado, West Virginia and Wyoming who have made GED® testing on computer a reality in correctional facilities. We know that many more states are poised to implement GED® testing on computer in correctional facilities by July 2013. And we are committed to continuing to work with you to do so.

We realize that you probably have questions in the wake of this announcement. In addition to the attached FAQ document that we urge you to share widely, we invite you to attend a WebEx on Friday, November 16 at either 11am Eastern or 2pm Eastern and to bring your questions and comments.

- To connect to the WebEx: Dial 1-877-554-0877
- The conference code: 4751633603