

High School Equivalency Certification in Illinois (GED®, HiSET®, & TASC™)

The Illinois HSE Administrator and HSE Certificate Requirements

In Illinois, the awarding of high school equivalency certificates is overseen by the Community College Board's High School Equivalency (HSE) Administrator's Office.

Illinois HSE Administrator's Office

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Website: http://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=498

To obtain an Illinois high school equivalency certificate, a person must (1) satisfactorily complete an accepted HSE examination and (2) pass the U.S. and Illinois State Constitution and Flag Test (the "Constitution Test").

Exam Options

A person seeking to obtain a high school equivalency (HSE) certificate in Illinois has three HSE test options. The most well known of these is the General Educational Development, or GED®, exam. There are two others, though, which are recognized by the Illinois HSE Administrator's Office and through which one may qualify for an high school equivalency certificate: the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET®) and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™).

Eligibility

Individuals Who May Take the Test Without Restriction - An individual is eligible to take one of the HSE exams without restrictions if he or she is 18 or more years old, does not have a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate, is not currently enrolled in a public or private high school setting, and has been a resident of the State of Illinois for at least 30 days.

Taking the Test at Age 17 - A 17 year-old is eligible to take one of the HSE exams if he or she provides a withdrawal letter from their last public, private, or home school setting to the Illinois HSE Administrator's Office.

Taking the Test at Age 16 - A 16 year-old is only eligible to take one of the HSE exams if he or she is enrolled in an Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (an alternative high school authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education) or the Lincoln's Challenge Program (offered by the National Guard).

Registration

Because all three exams are created and offered by private vendors, registration for the

examination is done on the vendors' websites. When a candidate creates an account and enters his or her personal information, the vendor shows the candidate the closest testing center(s) and times available for testing. The candidate is then required to arrive at the testing center on testing day with a valid government-issued photo ID.

(Candidates can find a location to take the Constitution Test by calling their Regional Office of Education. Information on how to locate and contact regional offices of education appears below.)

Vendor-Specific Information

- **The General Educational Development Test (GED®)**

The GED® exam is a computer-based HSE exam with four subject areas: reasoning through language arts (RLA), mathematical reasoning, science, and social studies. The full battery of the exam (all four subject areas) takes about 7.5 hours to complete.

The full cost of the GED® exam in Illinois is \$120; each individual subtest has a cost of \$30. Purchasers of a subtest qualify for two discounted retakes, in which they pay only the testing center fee - \$10 per subtest - if they need to retake the exam. (In the event of a third unsuccessful attempt, they would need to repurchase the subtest at full price.)

Registration for the GED® exam is done entirely online, at <https://GED.com>. Additional information on the GED exam is available on the website of the Illinois HSE Administrator's Office, [here](#), and on the GED's website, [here](#).

- **The High School Equivalency Test (HiSET®)**

The HiSET® exam is offered as both a computer-based and a paper-pencil exam. It has five subject areas: language arts, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The full battery of the exam (all five subject areas) takes just over 7 hours to complete.

The full cost of the HiSET® exam in Illinois is \$90; each individual subtest has a cost of \$18. Purchasers of a subtest qualify for two discounted retakes, in which they pay only the testing center fee - \$8 per subtest - if they need to retake the exam. (In the event of a third unsuccessful attempt, they would need to repurchase the subtest at full price.)

Registration for the HiSET® exam is done entirely online, at <https://hiset.org/>. Additional information about the HiSET exam is available on the website of the Illinois HSE Administrator's Office, [here](#), and on HiSET's website, [here](#).

- **Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™)**

The TASC™ exam is offered as both a computer-based and a paper-pencil exam. It has five subject areas: language arts, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The full battery of the exam (all five subject areas) takes just over 7.5 hours to complete.

The full cost of the TASC™ exam in Illinois is \$94; each individual subtest costs \$18.80. Purchasers of a subtest qualify for two discounted retakes, in which they pay only the

testing center fee - \$8 per subtest - if they need to retake the exam. In the event of a third attempt, they would need to repurchase the subtest at full price.

Registration for the TASC™ exam is done entirely online, at <https://illinois.tasctest.com>. Additional information about the TASC™ exam is available on the website of the Illinois HSE Administrator’s Office, [here](#), and on TASC’s website, [here](#) (pdf).

Comparison of Illinois Approved HSE Examination Vendors			
exam	GED®	HiSET®	TASC™
full cost	\$120	\$90	\$94
duration	7.5 hours	7 hours	7.5 hours
method of administration			
computer-based version avail.?	YES	YES	YES
paper-pencil version available?	NO	YES	YES
subject matter covered			
language arts	YES	YES	YES
math	YES	YES	YES
science	YES	YES	YES
social studies	YES	YES	YES
cost			
full cost	\$120	\$90	\$94
subtest	\$30	\$18	\$18.80
website	https://GED.com	https://hiset.org	https://illinois.tasctest.com

U.S. and Illinois State Constitution and Flag Test (“Constitution Test”)

High school equivalency candidates are also required to complete the U.S. and Illinois Constitution and Flag Test, also known as the “Constitution Test.” This exam does *not* have a fee, and can be taken at any time before or after the high school equivalency exam.

Constitution Tests can be taken at Regional Offices of Education or one of the Illinois HSE Administrator’s Office’s funded adult education providers. The recommended way for a candidate to find the closest testing center is by calling his/her Regional Office of Education. (More on locating Regional Offices of Education appears below.)

The State offers a study guide for the Constitution Test. It may be downloaded, free, in either English or Spanish:

- [English version](#) (pdf)
- [Spanish version](#) (pdf)

Alternatively, a printed version of the study guide may be purchased (at a cost) from Curriculum Publications Clearinghouse by calling 1-800-322-3905.

Note: Some candidates will have already taken this exam while still in high school, in the a sophomore or junior year Civics and Government class. Where this is the case, a candidate can simply provide proof that they passed the exam to their Regional Office of Education.

More information about this exam is available on the website of the Illinois HSE website, at http://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=508

Certificate, Transcripts

Candidates who have passed their high school equivalency exams and the Constitution Tests may obtain copies of their Illinois HSE certificates and their official state transcripts from their county's Regional Office of Education.

Each certificate has a cost of \$10. Each transcript costs \$6. The cost per transcript will increase to \$7 on July 1, 2017.

Regional offices of education follow different procedures for record requests, but all will require the candidate to provide a signed release form (it must be compliant with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) and a copy of a valid government-issued photo ID. Most regional offices of education can only accept payment in the form of a cashier's check or money order.

To find the nearest Regional Office of Education, candidates can

- (1) use the Illinois HSE Administrator's Office's ROE Locator Tool, <http://iccbdsrv.iccb.org/roesearch/citysearch.cfm>, or
- (2) search its [Directory of Regional Offices of Education](#) (pdf).

Additional information about requesting records is available on the Illinois HSE Administrator's Office's website, at http://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=493.