



ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DATA

CALENDAR YEAR 2017

February 19, 2020

Background

The Illinois Compiled Statutes School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-15.12) outlines minimum state requirements for high school equivalency (HSE) testing. This legislation provides the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) with the authority to establish guidelines for Illinois HSE testing including the selection of HSE exams and programs; the creation of policies and procedures for testing; the implementation of minimum passing standards for an HSE credential; and the implementation of state and local fees for exams, transcripts, and credentials.

The ICCB has approved three HSE exams for use in the State of Illinois: the General Education Development Test (GED®) published by GED Testing Service, the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET®) published by Educational Testing Service, and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™) published by Data Recognition Corporation. In addition to passing one of these three HSE exams, a candidate must also pass the high school level U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test and Flag Test (“Constitution Test”) to be eligible for an Illinois HSE Certificate.

Data from this report was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, the GED Analytics database made available by GED Testing Service, the ETS Data Manager for HiSET made available by Educational Testing Service, and the TASC Prism Database made available by Data Recognition Corporation.

Data from this report covers Calendar Year 2017, which spans from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Glossary of Key Terms

Test takers: the number of individuals who have taken at least one subtest of a high school equivalency exam

Completers: the number of individuals who have taken all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam

Passers: the number of individuals who have taken and passed all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam

Pass rate: the percentage of completers who have passed all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam

Credential attainment: the number of individuals who have taken and passed all subtests of a single high school equivalency exam *and* the U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test

Illinois High School Equivalency Performance

Table 1: Illinois HSE Performance, Calendar Year 2017

Exam	Test Takers	Completers	Passers	IL Pass Rate	National Pass Rate
GED	14,149	9,048	6,909	76.0%	79%
HiSET	573	279	208	74.6%	N/A
TASC	56	36	22	61.0%	N/A
Total	14,778	9,363	7,139	76.2%	N/A

Data on test takers, completers, passers, and pass rate was compiled using GED Analytics, ETS Data Manager for HiSET, and TASC Prism Database. The national pass rate is not available for all exams.

Table 2: Illinois Credential Attainment, Calendar Year 2017

Exam	Passers	Credential Attainment	Percentage of Passers with Credential Attainment
GED	6,909	6,439	93.2%
HiSET	208	174	83.6%
TASC	22	22	100%
Total	7,139	6,635	92.9%

Credential attainment requires high school equivalency candidates to complete and pass both the full battery of a high school equivalency exam (GED®, HiSET®, or TASC™) and the U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test.

The U.S. and Illinois State Constitution Test is a requirement of graduation for Illinois high school students mandated by the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-3). Therefore, the exam is similarly required of all Illinois high school equivalency candidates who wish to obtain the state-recognized high school equivalency credential.

Data on credential attainment was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database.

Illinois High School Equivalency Demographics

Illinois Test Takers by Age Range

The minimum age to take a high school equivalency exam without restriction in the State of Illinois is eighteen (18).

Seventeen (17) year old test takers may take a high school equivalency exam after providing proof of withdrawal from the last public or private school they attended,

demonstrating they (1) are not currently enrolled in a high school setting and (2) are no longer required to be enrolled in a high school setting.

Sixteen (16) year old candidates are not allowed to take a high school equivalency exam unless enrolled in an Alternative Learning Opportunities Program or Regional Safe Schools Program (alternative high schools authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education) or the Lincoln’s Challenge Academy (alternative military high school sponsored by the Illinois National Guard).

Complete eligibility requirements for high school equivalency testing in Illinois are available on the [High School Equivalency Page of the ICCB website \(http://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=489\)](http://www.iccb.org/adult_ed/?page_id=489).

Demographic data on age was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, which receives reported data from all three vendors. Due to reporting variations among vendors, data may vary from overall performance numbers.

Table 3: Illinois Test Takers by Age Range, Calendar Year 2017

Age	GED	HiSET	TASC	Total
16	145	0	3	148
17	981	20	17	1,018
18	1,554	42	11	1,607
19	1,161	40	5	1,206
20-24	3,508	127	5	3,640
25-29	2,297	100	5	2,402
30-34	1,591	70	4	1,665
35-39	1,187	63	1	1,251
40-49	1,247	64	3	1,314
50-59	420	40	1	461
60+	80	14	0	94
Total	14,171	580	55	14,806

Illinois Test Takers by Gender

Demographic data on gender was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, which receives reported data from all three vendors. Due to reporting variations among vendors, data may vary from overall performance numbers.

Table 4: Illinois Test Takers by Gender, Calendar Year 2017

Gender	GED	HiSET	TASC	Total
Female	7,033	345	16	7,394
Male	6,794	235	39	7,068
Declined	344	0	0	344
Total	14,171	580	55	14,806

Illinois Test Takers by Race/Ethnicity

Demographic data on gender was compiled using the Illinois High School Equivalency Database, which receives reported data from all three vendors. Due to reporting variations among vendors, data may vary from overall performance numbers.

Demographic data for Hispanic and Latino test takers is collected in a different manner for the HiSET® exam than for the GED® and TASC™ exams. GED® and TASC™ intake questionnaires include Hispanic/Latino as a selection under the category “race”. The HiSET® intake questionnaire includes Hispanic/Latino as a secondary category under Ethnicity, meaning Hispanic and Latino test takers are likely to select “White” or “Other” as their primary racial demographic. This difference in data collection means Hispanic and Latino test takers may be underreported for the HiSET® exam.

The Illinois High School Equivalency Database does not currently capture a second data point for Ethnicity. This is planned for a future update; therefore, this report will be edited with updated data as it becomes available.

Table 5: Illinois Test Takers by Race/Ethnicity, Calendar Year 2017

Race/Ethnicity	GED	HiSET	TASC	Total
American Indian	153	13	0	166
Asian	288	11	1	300
Black or African American	2,951	188	15	3,154
Hispanic or Latino*	4,629	20	10	4,659
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	23	4	0	27
White	4,686	174	24	4,884
Two or More Races	3	2	1	6
Other	2	99	0	101
Prefer Not to Respond	4	67	0	71
Unknown	1,171	2	4	1,177
Null/Not Provided	261	0	0	261
Total	14,171	580	55	14,806