

DATE November 5, 2014
TO Institutions of Higher Education and Employers
FROM Montana Office of Public Instruction, Adult Education Unit
SUBJECT Nationally-Recognized High School Equivalency Assessments (GED, HiSET, TASC)

This memo provides important information about state-issued High School Equivalency (HSE) credentials across the United States. The three nationally-recognized assessments used to obtain a state-issued High School Equivalency credential are GED, HiSET, and TASC. Each state will choose which assessment, or assessments, it will use to award a High School Equivalency credential. **Students or employees coming from other states with official documentation should be considered credentialed in order to obtain education or employment in our state.** Having a full understanding of the three most common High School Equivalency examinations, all of which lead to a state-issued credential, will allow the admissions or hiring process to be faster and easier.

States are requesting institutions of higher education and employers become familiar with these changes and update their admissions and employment applications to reflect the acceptance of “a high school diploma or state-issued equivalent.” **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Office of U.S. Department of Education recognize any of the state-issued HSE credentials for federal financial aid** (<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN1406.html>). There are currently three nationally-recognized assessments to obtain a state-issued High School Equivalency credential:

- **GED®** - Developed by GED Testing Service/Pearson VUE
- **HiSET®** – High School Equivalency Test - Developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- **TASC** – Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ - Developed by CTB/McGraw-Hill

Although states may offer additional choices on how to offer an adult secondary credential, at least one of these HSE tests will be available in each state.

Thank you for making these important changes to your admissions and employment applications. All states appreciate the opportunity for their citizens to attend our institutions and the opportunity to be employed in our state.

If you have any questions or need more information, please be sure to contact our office.

Test	Sub-test Minimum Score/ College Career Ready (CCR) Score	Total Required Min/CCR
2014 GED® (4 Sub-tests)	150/170	600/680
HiSET® (5 Sub-tests)	8/15	45/75
TASC (5 Sub-tests)	500	2500