



Florida GED® Testing Office

Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2013

Message from the GED Administrator™

A statewide conference call will be held on June 7 (see notice below). If you are unable to participate, please listen to the playback recording or send a representative. Important issues related to the closeout and computer-based testing will be discussed. As always, if you have any questions on the GED® testing transition or any other topic, please contact me at Tara.Goodman@fldoe.org.

Tara

Rule Development Workshops – New Rule 6A-6.0201

The rule development process has begun for the launch of the new assessment in January 2014. Please see the following dates and times for the upcoming meetings:

TIME AND DATE: June 3, 2013, 4 p.m. to completion

PLACE: Ronald Blocker Education Leadership Center, Conference Room A, 445 W. Amelia Street, Orlando, FL 32801-1129

TIME AND DATE: June 4, 2013, 4 p.m. to completion

PLACE: Atlantic Technical Center, Bon Appétit Room, 4700 Coconut Creek Parkway, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

A draft of the proposed rule is available on this site:

<https://app1.fldoe.org/rules/default.aspx>

Statewide Conference Call – June 7, 10 a.m. (EDT)

A statewide GED® testing conference call will be held on June 7 at 10 a.m. See the conference call details below:

Conference call number 1-888-670-3525

Participant Code: 6246588702 then #

Florida Department of
Education
325 West Gaines St.
Room 634
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone 850-245-0449

800 Line for Florida
Customers
1-877-352-4331

Web Site:

<http://ged.fldoe.org>

Archived copies of newsletters:

<http://ged.fldoe.org/newsletter.asp>

Staff Members:

Tara Goodman, GED
Administrator™

Diane Vaccari,
Program Manager

Dan Richardson,
Information Specialist
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Rasheeda Dixon,
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Example of Excellent Web Site for GED Information

Please check out the website for Florida Gateway College if you are looking for ideas on how to incorporate web banners on the GED changes:

<https://www.fgc.edu/new-students/test-center/ged/>

Computer-based Testing

Guide to Scores and Credentials for CBT Testers

We have created a document that you can customize to provide your CBT testers with the information about how scores and credentials are provided for CBT testers. We encourage CBT sites to distribute the guide to testers along with the unofficial score print outs after testing. Make sure you customize the document to include the specifics for your CBT testing center. A link to the document is available from our main web page - <http://ged.fl DOE.org/> or directly from this link: <http://ged.fl DOE.org/DOC/guide-to-scores-and-credentials-for-testers.doc>

Pearson VUE – Technical Support Wait Times

We have received reports of long wait times when calling Pearson VUE Tech Support and Customer Service. If you are having significant technical support problems or wait times, please send that information to us in writing. We need very specific information about the incidents including the following:

- Date of the incident
- Time of day
- Purpose for contacting Pearson VUE Tech Support
- Issue – excessively long wait to get a representative on the line, insufficient assistance

We are going to track instances of problems and report issues to GED Testing Service. However, we must have the details listed above.

It is incumbent upon the testing administrators/proctors to be familiar with the CBT documentation for GED Testing. In the documentation, there is a specific Pearson GED Testing Guide. In most cases, there are clear guidelines for the policies and procedures. It is not necessary to contact Pearson VUE technical support if there is clear documentation for the procedure. Please use the call line appropriately.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Vaccari.

New Resource Site for PBT to CBT conversion

GED Testing Service has created a new web page with resource information on converting from PBT to CBT. If you have not launched CBT, please review the information available at the following web link:

<http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/offercbt>

REMINDER – Planning for your CBT Launch

As soon as your agency sets the timeline and start date for your GED CBT launch, please contact Diane Vaccari and provide the following information:

- Pearson VUE Testing Center Number
- Address and contact information for the testing center that should be posted on the DOE website here:
<http://data.fldoe.org/workforce/contacts/default.cfm?action=showList&ListID=66>
- Anticipated date for opening registration
- Anticipated 1st date of testing
- Plan for regular appointment hours
- Document distribution contact name and info – who should the official documents be sent to for distribution to the candidates?
- Copy of late arrival policy

2013 Statistics on Computer-based Testing (January – May)

Subtests Scored	MA	2,532
	RE	2,060
	SC	1,901
	SS	1,996
	WR	1,743
Individuals tested		3,041

Scoring Update

Answer sheets from testing dates through May 12, 2013, have been scanned and results shipped to testing centers. If you are waiting on results for students from testing prior to this date, it is probable that a staging error has occurred for that student. Chief Examiners should review the error report from the scoring system that is e-mailed and sent with the batch transcript and diploma packets. If there is an issue, please contact Dan Richardson at 850-245-0449. When submitting inquiries about scoring,

please include your testing center ID in any written communication.

For your monthly scoring invoices, please be sure you look at the statement of charges to ensure that the correct payment amount is being sent. This statement reflects adjustments as a result of any scoring credits received by your testing center. Contact Kathy Almand at 850-245-9462 if you have questions about charges on your invoice.

2013 Scoring Site Production Statistics January – May
(Statistics include both PBT and CBT)

Diplomas Issued	12,975	
Subtests Scored	MA	19,541
	RE	16,810
	SC	16,682
	SS	17,016
	WR	17,056
Individuals tested	22,244	

Notice on Invoices for Scoring

Your testing center will be assessed scoring fees for the administration of duplicate tests forms during the year, administration of tests to individuals with a diploma already and underage testers. Over the past month, the following scoring errors occurred:

- 9 individuals were tested on a duplicate test form
- 6 individuals were tested that already earned a diploma
- 0 individuals were tested under the age of 16

If you see items listed on the scoring invoice under the description identified as "DTF - Duplicate Test Form" or "DAE – Diploma Already Exist" or "DST – Duplicate Spanish Test", and "UAT- Under Age Tester", please remember to look for two sets of detail data that should be submitted to your Accounts Payable section with the Invoice.

REMINDERS:

Testers with Out-of-State GED Scores

When a candidate has taken the GED tests out-of-state and is retesting at your site, you must:

- Send the candidate's **official transcript/official score report** with the transmittal to the scoring office.
- Notate on the transmittal that you have included an official transcript for the candidate.

- Send a completed demographic form for the candidate

The out-of-state scores will be combined with the scores earned at your site.

If you have any questions about submission, please contact Dan Richardson, Dan.Richardson@fldoe.org or 850-245-0449.

Submission of Tests to Scoring Office

The Transmittal Form and Procedures for Submission of Testing Materials can be downloaded from our Website:

<http://ged.fldoe.org/forms.asp>. Please make sure to use the new transmittal form and procedures when submitting your GED tests for Scoring. Here are a few things that we would like you to pay close attention to:

- Demographic forms must have spines removed.
- Copies of essays are no longer submitted.
- Essay transmittal form is no longer used.
- Out-of-state transcripts submitted for conversion must be official.
- Candidate names must be listed alphabetically on the transmittal form.

If you have any questions about how to package your tests for submission, please contact Diane Vaccari.

GED AccessPoint – Username and Password

The GED AccessPoint web address is <https://access.gedtest.org/Art>. The user name for accessing GED AccessPoint is your 10-digit testing center number (ex. 3000120XXX). The password was set locally by you. If you have been locked out of the system or do not remember your password, you may reset the password in the system. If you have questions, please contact Diane Vaccari.

User Names and Passwords for Accessing State GED Database: <https://ged.fldoe.org/login.asp>

All requests for user names and passwords to this system must be submitted by the Chief Examiner only. Access is limited to staff members involved in GED Testing at the testing centers. Instructional staff members are not permitted access to this system.

The Chief Examiner may NOT share their user name and password with other staff members. A request should be made for other GED personnel who require access to the database as part of their job duties. The Florida GED Testing Office is maintaining a list of all staff members who have been provided access. The Chief Examiner should maintain this information as well. Please contact Diane Vaccari if you have any questions.

Essays Submitted for Scoring

Please remind testers to write only on the lines provided on the essay answer sheet. Many of the essays we receive have writing into the margins where the timing marks are located on the forms and will not scan properly. Your examiners and proctors should monitor during the test to ensure that candidates are writing their essay within the appropriate section of the answer sheet. If you have any questions, contact Diane Vaccari.

Lending Library Requests

This is a reminder on the process for requesting testing materials from the lending library. The Chief Examiner must e-mail to the following address to request item(s): GEDLendingLibrary@fldoe.org.

Testing centers that check out materials from the lending library are responsible for ensuring materials are not damaged by test takers. Materials should be examined and stray marks removed prior to returning materials to the GED Testing Office. If markings are severe to the point where the battery cannot be re-used, the testing center will be charged \$200 to replace the testing battery.

If you have lending library materials, you must ship them back securely to the Florida Testing Office immediately after their use. *If a testing center fails to return materials in a timely manner consistently, then the testing center will be responsible for purchasing the alternative format of the test for their candidates.* Please plan the use of these materials appropriately and in a way that does not disadvantage other testing centers that are waiting to receive them.

Using Your Testing Center Number to Communicate

If you have to communicate with GEDTS via email or the Florida GED office, please remember to provide your 10-digit testing center number to process or research any requests.

GED Testing Service and Social Media

GED Testing Service[®] has several venues for release information through social media. See below for links to their various social media sites:

Official GED[®] Testing Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/GEDTesting>

GED Testing Service[®] YouTube channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/GEDTestingService>

GED Testing Service[®] Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/gedtesting>

Verification of Identity

The GEDTS P&P leaves it up to the GED administrator to determine if multiple documents can be presented. Florida will accept multiple documents as follows:

When a valid passport is presented and does not include a current address one of the following showing candidate's name and current address must be provided:

- Utility bill, not more than two months old
- Mail from financial institutions; including checking, savings, or investment account statements, not more than two months old
- Mail from Federal, State, County or City government agencies, not more than two months old
- Current homeowner's insurance policy or bill
- Current automobile insurance policy or bill
- Automobile payment booklet

Florida CBT Access - List of Testing Centers

A list of CBT testing centers is available now on the Florida GED Testing website. This list will be updated as new centers begin testing.

<http://data.fldoe.org/workforce/contacts/default.cfm?action=showList&ListID=66>

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ACTIVE GED® CBT SITES ABOUT STOPPING A TEST

Please take note that on a few occasions, CBT scores have been invalidated and testers had to take the subtests again at no fault of their own. The invalidations have been due to the test administrator (TA) ending the testing session prior to the tester completing all subtests they had originally scheduled in that particular appointment (Example: Re-tester had an appointment for two sessions and decided to skip the second test because the scores on the first test were sufficient to pass). Even though the testers had the printed unofficial results, the scores were not transmitted to the center server and the tests had to be rescheduled. Pearson VUE technical support has in both cases given TAs inadequate advice to how to stop the test. **Under no circumstances should the TA stop a test appointment in which a tester has completed only a portion of the subtests scheduled in that appointment. The testing appointment should be allowed to run out and *then* the TA should end the test session.**

Pearson VUE Assistance for Large Testing Room Set-Up

GEDTS staff notified the Department that on site assistance from Pearson VUE technical support may be available for centers with large testing rooms that are opening for GED® testing this year. This technical staff would assist with the loading of software in testing labs with large numbers of computer. This service may be offered under certain conditions to facilitate the quick set-up of testing rooms once the center has been approved by Pearson VUE. When your agency reaches the approval stage with Pearson VUE, please make sure that you ask the Pearson VUE representative whether you are eligible to receive on-site set-up assistance from their staff.