

## New High School Equivalency Test information

Dear Tutors,

If you are helping your student prepare for the GED we would like to share new developments in the High School Equivalency testing world.

First we would like to explain that GED is an acronym for General Education Diploma. The GED is a widely recognized exam. However it is not the only test available that offers students opportunity to obtain a document that is regarded as equal to a high school diploma. A couple of years ago the GED business was sold and the new owners of GED decided to change the curriculum and raise the price of their service. The GED became more difficult and students who had already passed some of the tests were required to take them again once the new test was in place. Many schools and students were upset by the changes and began to look at other options.

The testing option that is most often used now is the HiSET. HiSET is an acronym for High School Equivalency Testing. Its' tests are similar to the old GED exams- they are affordable and set to a similar curriculum as the old GED. A student can pay \$10 for a single test and is able to take that test three times within a year for that price. If the student does not pass the exam within a year they can simply purchase another test and the cycle repeats. HiSET also has free practice tests available online. Here is the HiSET website link: <http://hiset.ets.org/>.

As you know, we work closely with the Blue Ridge Community College GED and ESL departments. High school equivalency tests are offered here at the college. A student may choose which tests they prefer to take. Both the GED and HiSET are offered. Recently the GED industry has lowered acceptable passing test scores, which has in some cases, automatically granted high school equivalency diplomas to students who had previously been denied diplomas based on their scores. You can imagine the confusion this has created.

If you have a student preparing for the high school equivalency exams, please contact Priscilla if you have any questions. We do have new study materials for the HiSET, but if you are using 'old GED' materials they have proven effective in preparing for the HiSET curriculum. If you are using 'new GED' materials, you may want to re-evaluate your curriculum and consider preparing for the HiSET exam. If your student has already passed a number of the exams in GED, he or she would most likely prefer to continue and complete all exams in that system. If your student has not taken any exams, we would perhaps recommend that they prepare for the HiSET.

Again, if you have any questions, please contact the office.

Many thanks for your continued support on behalf of all of our students.