



**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES DIVISION**

**GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED)
PREPARATION & TESTING
FACT SHEET**

The Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has been providing administrative, instructional and funding support for GED preparation and testing since 1998 for both eligible juveniles when appropriate and adults in recognition of the GED achievement as a transitional step to post-secondary education, training and life-long learning.

AOC INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT FOR GED

GED instructional preparation is provided to eligible students in the Arizona Juvenile Detention Schools under the purview of the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) as well as throughout the Literacy Education and Resource Network (LEARN) Centers established and supported by the AOC since 1987. GED instructional preparation when appropriate is not to be considered the culmination of learning, but rather a transitional step to post-secondary education, training and life-long learning.

Only persons 16 years of age or older who have not graduated from an accredited high school or received a high school equivalency diploma are eligible to take the GED Test pursuant to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) policy.

Since the statute regulating juvenile detention education in Arizona (A.R.S. §15-913) requires that students be prepared to transition back to their home school district, only detained students who are not prepared to successfully return to their home school district and have few high school credits should be allowed to begin the GED preparation program. Students who complete the GED preparation program and score at least 410 on the GED Pre-test are allowed to take the GED Test while detained.

The GED Test is provided in English-Language and Spanish-Language forms. Audiocassette, Braille and large print tests are also made available to provide for necessary testing accommodations upon approval of the ADE and GEDTS.

AOC/JJSD FUNDING SUPPORT FOR GED TESTING

Any Arizona Juvenile Court Detention GED Testing Centers approved by the General Educational Development Testing Service (GEDTS) and cleared by the Administrative Office of the Courts are eligible to apply for a grant from the Arizona Supreme Court's (AOC) Juvenile Crime Reduction Fund (JCRF). JCRF is a grant program that was created for the purpose of funding projects designed to promote law-abiding behavior in youth. JCRF is part of the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund, and is supported through fines, penalties, and forfeitures collected by the courts for criminal offenses and traffic violations. Grants are awarded through a formal application process each fiscal year when funds are available. Applications are available at <http://supreme22/jjtd/jcrf/default.htm>.



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HISTORY OF THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED) TESTING PROGRAM

The first GED Tests were developed in 1942 to measure the major outcomes and concepts generally associated with four years of high school education. Initiated by the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI), the original tests were administered only to military personnel so that returning World War II veterans could more easily pursue their educational, vocational, and personal goals.

The USAFI examination staff is composed of civilian testing experts, worked with an advisory committee established with the support and cooperation of the American Council on Education, the National Association of Secondary Schools Principals, and regional U.S. accrediting associations.

The opportunity to document the attainment of high school-level academic skills served as a significant aid to the many service members whose academic careers had been disrupted during the war. During the 1950's, it became apparent that civilians could also benefit from the program – a need that the American Council on Education undertook to fulfill. Civilians were first allowed to take the GED Tests in 1952. From 1945 to 1963, the program was administered by the Veteran's Testing Service. In 1963, in recognition of the transition to a program chiefly for non-veteran adults, the name was changed to the GED Testing Service.

Since that time, the GED Testing Service has guided and directed a program that now serves more than 875,000 candidates annually at more than 3,200 Official GED Testing Centers. Testing is also provided for military personnel stationed overseas, for persons confined in correctional and health institutions, and for U.S. civilians and foreign nationals overseas.

The acceptance of the GED Tests as a valid means of awarding a high school diploma is fundamental to the success of the GED Testing Program. All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, 8 U.S. insular areas and freely associated states, and 11 Canadian provinces and territories use scores earned on the GED Tests as a basis for awarding high school equivalency credentials. Recent national surveys confirm that most U.S. employers and training programs consider applicants who hold a GED credential in the same manner as those who hold traditional high school diplomas. In addition, almost all U.S. colleges and universities accept GED score reports as being the same as high school transcripts for admissions purposes.

For 60 years, the GED Tests have provided a means to obtain personal satisfaction as well as to realize educational and occupational opportunities for millions of people who, for many reasons, were unable to complete their formal high school studies. The GED Testing Program provides high-quality tests and accessible testing services to individuals who may benefit from high school equivalency diplomas awarded by participating jurisdictions in the United States and Canada.

The GED Tests are available in the U.S. and Canadian English-language editions, in Spanish-language editions, and in French-language editions. The English, Spanish, and French-language GED Tests are available in large print and audiocassette editions. The English-and Spanish-language GED Tests are available in Braille editions. Testing accommodations are considered upon written request of the GEDTS and the local governing jurisdiction.