

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the difference between the GED test and HiSET exam?

Both the GED and HiSET are tests that are administered to applicants that are looking to obtain their Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma. The General Educational Development (GED) test has four subtests that the test taker must pass to receive their diploma. The subtests for the GED test are Mathematical Reasoning, Reasoning Through Language Arts, Social Studies and Science. The High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) has five subtests that the test taker must pass to receive their diploma. The subtests of the HiSET exam are Language Arts- Reading, Language Arts- Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The GED subtests are only provided on an online platform while the HiSET offers both paper and online exams.

Check out each test's website to learn more:

www.hiset.org

www.ged.com

Can I register for a High School Equivalency program if I am under the age of 18 in Pennsylvania?

No student under the age of 16 is eligible to take a high school equivalency test. Students who are ages 16 or 17 must meet additional eligibility requirements to complete high school equivalency testing. They must obtain a waiver form from the GED or HiSET platform and have one of the following documents:

- A letter from an employer, on company letterhead, stating that you must pass the high school equivalency test (GED® or HiSET®) in order to gain or maintain employment; OR
- A letter from a college or postsecondary training institution stating that you must pass the high school equivalency test (GED® or HiSET®) for enrollment; OR
- A letter from a branch of the Armed Services stating that you must pass the high school equivalency test (GED® or HiSET®) for induction; OR
- A letter from the director of a state institution in which you are a resident, patient or inmate requesting the high school equivalency test (GED® or HiSET®)

To enroll with one of our local high school equivalency programs in the county, students who are 16 or 17 must provide a withdrawal letter from their school district. Applicants who pass their high school equivalency test before turning 18 will not be eligible to receive their Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma until they reach their 18th birthday. However, they will be issued a transcript.

[Learn More Here](#)

Why is my child unable to withdraw from school until they turn 18?

This is a requirement from the State of Pennsylvania. The State of Pennsylvania has Compulsory School Age Attendance requirements for children between the ages of 6 and 18. Every school district is required to have a written Attendance Policy that must be shared with parents and guardians. Please refer to your child's school district Attendance Policy to learn more.

Learn more about Compulsory School Attendance here:

www.education.pa.gov/Policy-Funding/BECS/Purdons/Pages/CompulsorySchoolAttendance.aspx

Who are the Title Two Equivalency Providers in Montgomery County?

Montgomery County has three local high school equivalency providers that prepare students who are looking to take a high school equivalency test to receive their diploma. The Keystone Opportunity Center, Tri-County YWCA and the Open Link prepare students to take the GED or HiSET exam. We recommend reaching out to each program to learn more about their classes and the resources they have available for their students.

[Click Here for Contact Information](#)

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the schedule for HSE classes?

Each program operates different days and hours of the week. The programs have morning, afternoon and evening classes as well as in person and virtual opportunities. Please reach out to one of our local providers to learn more.

Is there a cost associated with High School Equivalency programs?

The local HSE providers run free classes for students enrolled in their HSE programs. There is a cost associated with each of the subtests required by the GED and HiSET platforms.

Where can I take the GED or HiSET subject tests?

Both the Tri-County YWCA and the Open Link are certified to administer the HiSET exam. The Montgomery County OIC in Norristown is certified to administer the GED exam. The GED exam can also be taken online at the location of your choosing while securely monitored by an online proctor.

How long does it take to complete the program and receive my diploma?

The amount of time it takes to complete the tests to receive your diploma depends on what level of education you are at. Each high school equivalency provider in the county utilizes an assessment to determine what level of education the student is at. They use this information to place the student in the correct high school equivalency classes. Both the GED and HiSET exams have pretests which students are recommended to take to determine if they are ready to take the subtests.

PENNSBURG

The Open Link in Pennsburg
www.theopenlink.org
(info is under "adult education" tab)
215-679-4112
instructor@theopenlink.org

POTTSTOWN

Tri-County YWCA
www.ywcatricountyarea.org
(info is under "what we do" tab)
484-299-6037 (call or text)
etc@ywcatricountyarea.org

NORRISTOWN

Tri-County YWCA
www.ywcatricountyarea.org
(info is under "what we do" tab)
610-427-5830
etc@ywcatricountyarea.org

SOUDERTON

Keystone Opportunity Center
www.keystoneopportunity.org
(info is under "education" tab)
267-663-1001
Contact@KeystoneOpp.org

WWW.MCIU.ORG/MWN

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