



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

ROCKING THE GED

If you left high school without a diploma, you have the right to return until the June after your 21st birthday. You can also choose to earn your High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma by passing a free test called the GED. If you are 19, you can take the GED without first enrolling in a HSE course. If you are 17 or 18, you must enroll in an approved HSE course to take the GED, and 17-year-olds need parent or guardian permission to enroll in a course. If you are under 17, you cannot take the GED in NYC.

The GED has four sections: Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA). You must pass all four sections to receive your HSE Diploma. You do not need to take (or pass) all four sections at the same time.

Where can I find a good GED class?

There are many good, free GED prep classes in NYC. You should never pay for a GED class.

The DOE has free approved HSE classes for people ages 18-21, called P2G. P2Gs are taught by credentialed teachers, offer special education supports, and can help you prepare for the GED. Check out www.p2g.nyc.

The City University of New York (CUNY) and the NYC DOE also offer free adult GED classes.

What if I already passed a section of the TASC or a high school Regents exam?

If you passed a section of the TASC exam, by scoring 500 or above, you do not need to take that section of the GED to get your HSE diploma. But, if you passed either the TASC Writing or TASC Reading section, but not both, you will need to take the RLA section of the GED. You can find your past TASC scores by logging into your [TASC account](#).

Similarly, if you passed or were exempt from a high school Regents exam, you do not need to take that section of the GED exam. If you're not sure which Regents you've passed or have exemptions for, [request a copy of your high school transcript](#). For more information, see [AFC's guide to Regents exemptions](#).

Can I get an accommodation on the GED?

The GED offers accommodations so that everyone can get the support they need to take the test. Some accommodations are available to everyone, while others are only available for people with documented disabilities.

What accommodations are available to everyone?

- Test in Spanish or English;
- Large print or Braille;
- Special lighting;
- Earplugs;
- Seat cushion;
- Scratch paper;
- Directions using American Sign Language;
- Tinted plastic overlays for the paper test;
- Changes in text color on the computer-based test;
- Math formula reference sheet.

If you would like any of these accommodations, no supporting documents are needed. But you do need to request the accommodation through your GED account online.

What accommodations are available only to people with disabilities?

Disability accommodations are only available to people with documented disabilities. Below are some of the most common disability accommodations. If you need an accommodation that is not on this list, you should still ask for it. Only 3% of accommodation requests are denied. You need supporting documents to request these.

- Assistive technology (e.g. tablet or computer) to help with writing
- Text-to-Speech software
- Special seating or furniture
- Test read aloud
- Breaks
- Small group setting
- Extra time
- Private testing room
- Scribe

How do I request an accommodation for my disability?

You need to request accommodations at least 30 days before you take the test. If you are taking a GED prep course, staff at your program can generally walk you through this process. To request disability accommodations on your own, log on to your [GED account](#) and create an account on the GED Accommodations [Request System](#).

You will need to upload an IEP, 504 Plan, or medical evaluation that lists (1) your diagnosis, (2) how this diagnosis impacts test taking, (3) and the test accommodations you need.

If you are using your IEP or 504 plan, make sure it lists all the accommodations you need. You can get a copy of your IEP or 504 Plan from your last DOE school.

TIP!

If you are still in high school and think you may need to take the GED later, make sure your IEP includes all the testing accommodations you need. Before you leave school, ask your IEP team to hold a new meeting to add any accommodations you need.

How recent do my documents need to be?

If you are requesting accommodations because of a psychological, psychiatric, physical or chronic health condition, your supporting documents must be less than one year old.

If you are requesting accommodations because of a learning, attention, or other cognitive disability, your evaluation must be less than 5 years old.

What if my documents are too old or don't list all the accommodations I need?

If you are in a P2G program, ask your school psychologist to do new evaluations for free. Your P2G program can also update your IEP or 504 plan. If you are not in a P2G program, several testing clinics in New York provide free or low-cost evaluations. You may also be able to get an evaluation paid for by your health insurance or Medicaid.

QUESTIONS?

Talk to your school guidance counselor or email the GED Accommodations Office accomodations@ged.com. You can also call the Advocates for Children helpline at 866-427-6033 (toll free). Our helpline operates from 10am-4pm, Monday-Thursday.

This fact sheet does not constitute legal advice. This fact sheet attempts to summarize existing policies or laws without stating the opinion of AFC. If you have a legal problem, please contact an attorney or advocate.

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