

General Information about High School Equivalency Assessments

On a biennial schedule, the Minnesota State legislature determines if there is a state subsidy for funding of high school equivalency exams. Please refer to the Minnesota State Department of Education website to determine if funding has been provided and for further information.

As of 2023, the assessments are language arts (reading and writing), math, social studies, and science. The assessments can be taken one at a time or all at the same time. The cost for each assessment is \$36 and the MN State Legislature has provided funding to pay the cost of a student's initial exam in each subject. This funding will continue until 2027 or until the funding runs out. The cost of a retake assessment is \$10. A student must pay with a credit/debit card online when they sign up to take a test, or use a voucher obtained online.

High school equivalency assessment preparation classes are offered around the state. The RHF does not cover preparation classes or practice assessments. Typically a student comes into an adult education center and expresses an interest in getting a high school equivalency certificate or diploma. After some initial paperwork and discussion during the intake process, the adult education instructor determines the approximate level of education of the student and begins preparing the student to take the required assessments. Some students require more teaching/tutoring than others. Some students study on their own and attempt a practice assessment. This indicates the student's ability to pass the official assessment. Other students require more time preparing before being ready to take a practice assessment.

Currently, there are 40 approved assessment sites (consortiums) around the state of Minnesota. Official high school equivalency assessments must be taken at an approved assessment site in Minnesota or through an approved online portal that offers proctored exams. The Adult Education instructor works with the student so they do not fall victim to GED® test scams. All exams and study materials supplemented by the RHF are through state approved websites, or purchased and mailed directly to the students mailing address provided on the application.

Some facts regarding Minnesota high school equivalency assessments (as of 2018):

- Over 310,000 Minnesotans were without a high school diploma.
- 140,000 Minnesotans without a high school diploma were women.
- The average annual income of women without a high school diploma was \$21,400 (below poverty level).

Barriers to assessment completion include, but are not limited to, transportation, computer/internet access, housing instability, employment instability, substance abuse, mental health issues, child care, family concerns and lack of funds and/or credit card to register and pay online for the assessments, or to retake an assessment.

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