



GET YOUR GED

Interesting in learning more about [The South Dakota General Education Development \(GED\) exam](#)? Then you have come to the right place! Check out the information below to help you better understand the steps needed to successfully obtain a South Dakota GED — Our Dakota Dreams will be by your side every step of way.

Do You Qualify?

The South Dakota GED testing requirements are as follows:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- If under 18, you may not be enrolled in a high school diploma program at the time of testing.
- Cannot already have a high school diploma or a GED certificate.
- Must provide a photo identification and proof of age to the testing center — driver's license, passport, or military/government identification card
- If you are 16 or 17 years old, you must be attending an in-school GED preparation program, have written proof of your drop-out date from your local school district, written permission from a parent or legal guardian, and written proof of one of the following:
 - A GED preparation program official who can certify you have shown the ability to successfully complete the GED tests.
 - A court order requiring you to take the GED tests.
- All examinees are required to take the official practice test with a minimum score of 500.

Prepare For The Test

Now, begins the preparation. The guidelines below will help to determine educational goals, assist in preparing a plan to achieve these goals, and how to best prepare for the GED to launch your dream.

Improve study skills, review basic information on various subjects and take courses at any of the adult education programs or career learning centers in South Dakota — at no cost to you!

- Purchase books and other study materials online — be sure to check out your local bookstore as well!
- Take an [online course](#) to prepare — starting at \$69

- Take a [practice test](#) — the more prepared you are, the more confident you will feel going into the exam
- When you are ready, [schedule the real test!](#)

Take The Test

First, check out the [cost of taking GED tests](#), so you know what to expect. You will pay for the test online with a debit or credit card when you schedule your test.

The GED is composed of five subject areas, Language Arts-Writing, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts-Reading and Mathematics. The entire exam is multiple choice with the exception of the Language Arts-Writing Part II section. In this section, you will be given 45 minutes to write an essay. Part I of the Mathematics section provides you with a Casio FX-260 calculator to use. However, Part II requires that you answer the questions without the aid of the calculator. [Learn more!](#)

The possible scores on each section of the exam range from 200 (lowest) to 800 (highest.) The total scores for all five test items must total 2250, and no test score can be below 410, according to the [South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation's GED program](#).

There's no limit to how many times you can test in a year. For those testing *in-person*, if retakes are needed, there is no waiting period the first two times. After taking it three times, you'll have to wait 60 days before retesting. For those testing *online*, the Online Proctored Exam allows for one retake before a 60-day waiting period. After taking a test subject two times online, you'll have to wait 60 days before retesting.

If you already have a GED Certificate but you want to improve your test scores to satisfy a prospective employer or educational institution, you must:

- Make a written request to your local GED test center, including evidence showing why you need to re-take the test(s).
- Take an alternate form of the GED tests.
- Pay the same fees as if you were testing for the first time.
- Turn in your old certificate and get a new one if your re-testing is successful.

If your state records were destroyed and you lose your certificate, you will have to re-test in order to be certified again.