



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 27, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

PROPOSED GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEST PASSING SCORES

The California Department of Education (CDE) has recently received a recommendation from General Educational Development Testing Service (GEDTS[®]) to lower the passing score for the General Educational Development (GED[®]) test. California state law (California *Education Code* Section 51420) requires that the California State Board of Education (SBE) establish the score a pupil must achieve to earn their California High School Equivalency Certificate, following a public hearing.

The score, determined by the SBE, must be equal to the standard of performance expected from high school graduates. The original passing score of 150 was established by a standardization and norming study. While GEDTS[®] continues to stand by the norming study, they believe a "performance adjustment" is justified based on the actual performance of GED[®] test takers. Unless the proposal is approved by the SBE, no change to the passing score will be made to achieve a California High School Equivalency Certificate.

Immediately following notice of the recommendation, the CDE requested the data upon which the performance adjustment recommendation was based. To date, GEDTS[®] has only provided a nation-wide description of their process. The CDE is currently working with GEDTS[®] to obtain empirical data that reflects California specific data, in order to appropriately develop a recommendation for the SBE as soon as possible. The next SBE meeting is scheduled for March 9 and 10, 2016.

Additional information is provided in the GED[®] Score Update tab that is posted to the CDE California High School Equivalency Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd/>. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the High School and Physical Fitness Assessments Office by phone at 916-445-9438 or by e-mail at HSEOffice@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent
District, School, and Innovation Branch

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