

First Mondays

Monthly Notes for Virginia's Adult Education Providers



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF
**TECHNOLOGY, CAREER &
ADULT EDUCATION**
OFFICE OF ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY SERVICES

November 4, 2013

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Calendar



Regional Data Meetings

Alberta – Nov. 8
Springfield – Nov. 12
Spotsylvania – Nov. 15
Henrico – Nov. 18
Virginia Beach – Nov. 19

GED[®]



Resources for GED 2014
information

[Virginia's GED Web site](#)

[VALRC](#)

[Online Forum for Virginia's 2014
GED Instructors](#)

[GEDTS](#)

[OAEL](#)

Credentialing Changes for the 2014 GED[®] Test

By Maurice Oliver, VALRC

The GED[®] 2014 test brings some exciting changes, especially in the fulfillment of the credential itself. Currently, students who earn the GED[®] credential in Virginia receive an official transcript and a paper certificate from the Office of Adult Education and Literacy (OAEL). Beginning in January 2014, those who earn a GED[®] certificate will receive a "Smart Transcript" from GEDTS. GEDTS has partnered with [Parchment](#) to fulfill initial and duplicate certificate and transcript requests. GEDTS promises a seamless interface for those requesting transcripts and certificates as there will not be a need to create a separate account with Parchment.

The Smart Transcript is a secure electronic transcript that recipients can save and share with others. It not only shares a test-taker's scores, but includes links to the GED Testing Service Web site with additional information regarding what the GED[®] test measures, what the scores mean, and what skills the student demonstrated on the test. This includes information about earning a GED[®] Passing Score with Honors.

GED[®] Credentialing uses Blue Ribbon Security, a secure delivery system developed and patented by Parchment. Blue Ribbon Security guarantees the document sent to the recipient has not been altered. Each transcript and diploma contains a certificate code, which is then validated against Parchment's database to verify all content is the same as the original document that was sent out. The recipient can easily assess the integrity of a transcript or diploma by a blue ribbon indicating the document is authentic and trustworthy or a red X indicating the document has been altered.

Smart Transcripts show what an individual GED[®] test taker accomplishes when they pass the GED[®] test. The Smart Transcript will have links embedded that will tell potential employers and colleges what is measured on the GED[®] test, and how the test-taker performed on each. The new GED[®] test will measure test-takers on over 150 different traits. This will be a valuable tool in helping GED[®] test credential earners demonstrate skills that employers need. The Smart Transcript will also provide detailed information about what each GED[®] Test score means and how the test taker performed compared to high school seniors nationwide. - Parchment Press Release, September 17, 2013.

Money Matters



Award notifications for reallocated 2012-2013 AEFLA funds have been mailed. A webinar will be held on Wednesday, November 13, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. to address management of the award in OMEGA, match requirements, and maintenance of effort. To sign up for the webinar, please email your name, position, and regional program name to OAEL@doe.virginia.gov. Registrations are limited to two per regional program. Confirmation and instructions for accessing the webinar will be emailed to registrants by the close of business on November 11.



OAEL

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Please visit the [OAEL Web site](#) for more information about adult education and literacy in Virginia and for news and updates throughout the month.

The initial transcript is free. Once a recipient has a copy of the smart transcript, it can be saved and shared without additional costs. Students will receive their Smart Transcript and diploma delivered directly to the email address they used when they signed up for [MyGED](#) as soon as their test is scored, typically within hours of completing the final test.

The official certificate (paper) will be available as an option as well. OAEL is working with GEDTS to ensure that GED[®] certificates earned in Virginia have the same official logos and signatures as traditional certificates earned in Virginia. Recipients will need to request a paper certificate as it is not sent automatically upon passing the test. As soon as students pass the 2014 GED[®] test, in addition to a secure, electronic PDF delivered to their email, they will receive a link to order a professionally printed GED[®] certificate, free of charge.

Beginning January 2014, OAEL will no longer fulfill requests for copies of transcripts or GED[®] certificates. OAEL will no longer verify test-taker information. GEDTS will fulfill requests for all GED certificates earned in Virginia, including certificates earned before 2014, and request for verification. Tests taken before 2014 will not have an associated Smart Transcript; only a basic transcript will be available. The cost for a duplicate transcript and duplicate certificate will be \$15.00 each. The certificate verification cost to employers or schools will also be \$15.00 for each verification requested.

Please note, until January 1, 2014:

- OAEL will process requests for duplicates of GED certificates and transcripts for tests taken on paper before January 2014. Duplicate certificates cost \$10.00; duplicate transcripts cost \$5.00. After January 1, 2014, OAEL will no longer fulfill requests for duplicates.
- OAEL cannot provide transcripts or duplicate certificates for students who test on computer for the current (2002) GED series. GEDTS must fulfill these requests.
- To request official transcripts and official duplicate GED certificates, test-takers should visit: www.gedva.com

After January 1, 2014, GEDTS will fulfill all requests for transcript and certificate duplicates, current and historical.

The GEDTS Web site contains more information for special situations, including instructions for military personnel and federal prisoners who need duplicate transcripts or certificates. Visit

<http://www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/gedrequest-a-transcript>

MyGED

At the center of the GED test-taker experience is [MyGED](#), set to launch at the end of November. The GED portal includes benefits for test-takers, administrators, and educators. Among the test-taker features is the ability to request duplicate transcripts or certificates.

FEATURES FOR TEST-TAKERS

- Get jurisdiction-specific information
- Prepare online with selected study materials using the study tool wizard
- Register
- Request accommodations
- Schedule test and re-test
- Review test day tips
- View and print enhanced score reports with study recommendations
- Order transcripts and diploma
- Transition to college & careers

FEATURES FOR ADMINISTRATORS

- Search for a test-taker by name, email, city, or type of exception (age, practice test, accommodation, etc.)
- Sort records by status to handle the open cases sooner
- Make eligibility decisions quickly and easily with one-click access on the dashboard

FEATURES FOR EDUCATORS

Online tools can help you connect with learners to see what their study plans look like at home and to award them for progress in the classroom. Collaborate with other teachers and even post lesson plans, podcasts, or other resources for teachers and learners miles away.

As always, if you have questions, please call the GED® Helpline, staffed by the Resource Center. The toll-free number for students and educators is 877-376-9433 (877-37MYGED). The GED® staff at OAEL can be reached at 804-225-2053.

