



Mississippi Community College Board Office of Adult Education & High School Equivalency Competency-Based High School Equivalency Diploma Fact Sheet



- **What is the Mississippi Competency Based HSED Option?** The MS Competency-Based High School Equivalency Diploma Option is an alternate HSED embedded with both academic standards and industry recognized credentials for students enrolled in an Integrated Education and Training Pathway. Instruction is designed to recognize the academic learning that occurs within the training programs. Essentially, the academic learning occurs through authentic, real-world problems and projects completed within the industry credential training. Mastery of content and competencies, as well as use of existing assessments for pre- and post-testing, such as TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) and ACT WorkKeys® is the form of assessment used in lieu of the GED, HiSET, or TASC norm testing.
- **Why is this option important for participants?** A postsecondary degree or relevant job certification is the “new minimum” needed to meet the demands of an increasing knowledge-based workforce with the means to excel in rewarding careers and growing family incomes. However, the route to postsecondary education comes to an abrupt halt if an individual does not have a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma (HSED).
- **Who is this option for?** This option is for participants looking to complete their high school equivalency through a local adult education program.
- **How can participants register for this option?** Participants may contact any local adult education program to learn more about participating in this option.
- **What is the cost?** \$25.00 processing fee paid directly to DiplomaSender.
- **What instruction will students receive?** All adult education instruction has been federally mandated to include College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). The CCRS for Adult Education report presents content most relevant to preparing adult students for success in college, technical training programs, work and citizenship with emphasis in the areas of English language arts/literacy and mathematics.
- **Is this option recognized by the State of Mississippi and transferable outside of Mississippi?** Yes. Mississippi Code: 37-5. Participants completing this option will receive the Mississippi High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED).
- **What credit hours will be accepted?** Credit hours earned in a designated Integrated and Training Pathway will qualify for this completion option as long as it meets the definition of an IET as defined by WIOA. The **WIOA definition of Integrated Education and Training:** means a service approach that provides adult education and literacy activities concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement. IET represents a wide spectrum of services to build foundational, employability, and occupational skills.
- **What are Industry-Recognized Credentials?** High-quality credentials are recognized by multiple employers across an industry. To help better identify and prioritize such credentials, the following uniform definition of “industry-recognized” is the standard definition to be used to determine if a credential meets the requirements for awarding a Competency-Based High School Diploma. The term “industry-recognized,” used with respect to a credential, means a credential that—
 - must be awarded in "recognition of an individual's attainment of measurable technical or occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an occupation (ETA)
 - is sought or accepted by employers within the industry or sector involved as a recognized, preferred, or required credential for recruitment, screening, hiring, retention or advancement purposes; and,

- where appropriate, is endorsed by a nationally recognized trade association or organization representing a significant part of the industry or sector.
- **What are the minimum requirements for achieving a Mississippi Competency Based HSED?** Upon completion of the following components, participants will be awarded a **MS High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED)** validated and issued by the State of Mississippi, Mississippi Community College Board. **All HSEDs are distributed through DiplomaSender.**

Completion Requirements		
1. Enrollment in Adult Education Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Transition Specialist/Navigator • Create Student Success Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student portfolio • Register with MS WORKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WIOA Common Case Management Technology (Hub) • Identify Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Referrals to core agencies 		
2. Obtain a minimum Educational Functioning Level of 5 (Grade Equivalency of 9.0) on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) in two of the following subject areas: Reading, Language, and/or Math. ***Applicants are required to submit TABE Portfolio for all assessments. TABE Assessments submitted must be in compliance with the Mississippi Adult Education Assessment Policy to be considered valid.		
3. Enroll and complete a <u>minimum of 45 hours</u> of instruction in an adult education program. <i>College & Career Readiness Standards</i> - All students will receive instruction in reading, writing, and math aligned with the College and Career Readiness Standards required by the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education https://lincs.ed.gov/professional-development/resource-collections/profile-521		
4. Earn fifteen (15) college credit hours in a designated Integrated Education and Training Pathway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior Learning Assessment/Credit by Examination college credits are allowable • Developmental education credits excluded • Minimum GPA: 2.0 or higher 		
5. Earn a Mississippi Smart Start Credential – Smart Start Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Skills – National Career Readiness Certificate • Career Exploration/Employment Preparation • Necessary Skills – (soft skills) 		
6. Earn a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)		
Applied Math Level 4 or higher Silver	Workplace Documents Level 4 or higher Silver	Graphic Literacy Level 4 or higher Silver
7. Earn an Industry-Recognized Credential		
8. \$25.00 Processing fee paid directly to Diploma Sender		