



Mississippi Community College Board

Office of Adult Education & High School Equivalency

Competency-Based High School Equivalency Diploma

Fact Sheet

The MCCB, Office of Adult Education has the primary responsibility for implementation of the Mississippi Works Smart Start Pathway Model through Smart Start Classes. A high school diploma or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) is a foundational step toward achieving self-sufficiency and financial stability for all individuals. The lack of a high school diploma or HSED poses significant challenges for individuals and produces economic strain on the state. There are also significant costs to society when the population lacks employable skills and formal education. Adults without a high school diploma are two times more likely to receive public assistance from the government - creating an economic strain on both the individual and the state.

- **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 or certificates in the Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MIBEST) in which they are enrolled. 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?**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: **Senate Bill 2370**

SECTION 1. The terms "general education development," and "GED," wherever they appear in the laws of the State of Mississippi shall mean "high-school equivalency diploma." Any reference to "high-school equivalency diploma" shall mean a high-school diploma that has been approved by the Mississippi Community College Board.

SECTION 4. Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-29-1. (1) The creation, establishment, maintenance and operation of community colleges is authorized. Community colleges may admit students if they have earned one (1) unit less than the number of units required for high school graduation established by State Board of Education policy or have earned a high-school equivalency diploma in courses correlated to those of senior colleges or professional schools. Subject to the provisions of Section 75-76-34, they shall offer, without limitation, education and training preparatory for occupations such as agriculture, industry of all kinds, business, home-making and for other occupations on the semiprofessional and vocational-technical level.

- **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. Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a Mississippi resident • Not enrolled or required to be enrolled in school under the compulsory school law • Has not received a valid high school diploma or a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) 		
2. Attend AE Orientation/Intake <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 		
3. Educational Functioning Level Assessment: Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) Students must obtain a minimum score of Level 5 (Grade Equivalency 9.0-12.9) in two of the following subject areas: Reading, Writing, Math Computation/Applied Math		
4. Adult Education Instruction: <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 <i>Smart Start Course</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Skills – National Career Readiness Certificate • Career Exploration/Employment Preparation • Necessary Skills – (soft skills) 		
5. Must enter an approved MIBEST Program OR Integrated Education and Training Pathway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must Complete 15 hours of college credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prior Learning Assessment college credits are allowable ○ Developmental education credits excluded • Minimum GPA: 2.0 or higher 		
6. Earn Mississippi Smart Start Credential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Skills – National Career Readiness Certificate • Career Exploration/Employment Preparation • Necessary Skills – (soft skills) 		
7. Earn National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)		
Applied Math Level 4 or higher Silver	Workplace Documents (Reading for Information) Level 4 or higher Silver	Graphic Literacy (Locating Information) Level 4 or higher Silver
8. Earn a pertinent Industry-Recognized Credential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As defined in the MCCB Credential Policy and Procedure Manual, the state-wide CTE Curriculum framework, or the local Workforce Board Sector Strategy Plans 		