High School Equivalency (HSE)

The Latest and Greatest within the High School Equivalency Program in Kansas
Today’s Objective:
• Be Brief
• Be Brilliant
• Be Gone
The Brilliant Part:
(We shall see . . .)

• Remember the military model for speeches?
• Kansans without HS Diplomas
• Why are they important?
• Who are they?
• Where are they?
• What can we do to help?
• How do we make it happen?
Foresight 2020 Goal No. 1:

• 60% of working-age Kansans will hold a postsecondary credential by the year 2020

• CJ Online’s Celia Llopis-Jepsen reported Saturday, “Kansas has been on track . . . but it will need to sustain growth for another six years.”
Uh-Oh!

• Declining university enrollment

• Rising costs of college

• ??? in public education
Here are some numbers:

- Over 250,000 Kansans
- 172,700 Kansans
- 36,550 Kansans
• Over 250,000 Kansas adults lack a HS Diploma or its equivalent

• 172,700 working-age Kansans (age 18-64) have no HS Diploma or its equivalent

• 36,555 Kansans were enrolled in Private Postsecondary Education in FY2014
Where are they?
Darker = More without a diploma.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey
Kansas, 25 years or older, 12th grade with no diploma, by county
Imagine this conversation:

Hey, Boss, can I have a minute?

Sure! What’s up?

I have a plan to increase our enrollment, decrease the middle-skills gap, drive the Kansas economy, and make the Kansas Board of Regents look spectacular.

How?

Offer High School Equivalency Preparation.

Outstanding! You get a raise!
Ability To Benefit (ATB) access to Title IV funding

• Student takes a Wonderlic (or similar) test OR

• Pays for and complete 6+ credits at school toward a degree or certificate

• Completes a financial aid application

• Enrolls in “Eligible career pathways program”
What’s missing with ATB?

High School Equivalency (HSE) Credential
Accelerated Opportunity-Kansas

• AO-K helps students improve basic skills in reading, math, and writing to prepare for the GED® tests
• English language services are also available
• AO-K serves adults with families, those who are still learning English, and people who haven’t been in school in years
• Even those who didn’t finish high school or complete the GED® tests can find a path for success in today’s workplace
• State pays the school for each credential
• Be creative in your recruitment!

• Study and utilize ATB!

• Create your own version of AO-K!

• Call it the Kansas Kickstart!

• Get some of those 172,700 Kansans into your programs!
• Offer synchronized enrollment:
  • GED Preparation + Your Program

• Incentivize GED® test completion

• Offer a scholarship reducing fees for a postsecondary program upon GED® test completion

• Layer or tier your scholarship incentives:
  • $_____ for completing GED® tests
  • $_______ for completing a certificate
  • $__________ for completing a degree program
• GED® is the biggest name in High School Equivalency, owned by Pearson VUE

• College and Career Readiness Standards are in place

• All tests are taken on computer
  • Nearly instantaneous results
  • Excellent tracking and analytics
Other HSE Tests Available:

• High School Equivalency Test (HiSET®), owned by Educational Testing Service
• Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC®), owned by McGraw-Hill Education
• All three are widely accepted in the workforce and postsecondary institutions
• Kansas uses the GED® Tests, so here are some details:
GED® Tests:

- Reasoning through Language Arts
  - The ability to read closely
  - The ability to write clearly
  - The ability to edit and understand written English in context

- Social Studies
  - Civics and government
  - United States history
  - Economics
  - Geography and the world
GED® Tests:

• Science
  • Life science
  • Physical science
  • Earth and space science

• Mathematical Reasoning
  • Quantitative problem solving
  • Algebraic problem solving
  • Where-to-eat-today problem solving
  • (just seeing who still with me after Algebraic problem solving)
GED® Tests:

- The tests are available in Spanish
- The entire battery of tests costs $132
- Each test costs $33
- Breakdown:
  - $20 to GED Testing Service
  - $10 to Test Center
  - $3 to State of Kansas
- Official Practice Test is called GED Ready
  - Periodically, promotions are announced
Current Promotion: BACKTOSCHOOL to October 31

• GED Ready practice tests are $1, not $6
• Represents 50% of the operational test
• Score categories:
  • Likely to Pass
  • Too Close to Call
  • Not Likely to Pass
• Practice test Guarantee until October 31
  • If you score Likely to Pass, but fail the real test, GED TS pays 100% of the retake
Become a Pearson VUE Authorized Test Center (PVTC)

• Basic Needs:
  • Two computers
  • Security equipment package ($450)

• Meet the following requirements:
  • Technology
  • Quality
  • Financial
  • Security
  • Staffing
Offer High School Equivalency Preparation Program

- Choose a curriculum for pre-testing and GED® Preparation
- Hire staff to teach Adult Basic Education
- Kansas uses the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) to pre-test basic skills
• See the opportunity to recruit those without a HS Diploma
• Create a process to get them into your program
• Become part of the Kansas solution
• Take the same idea to your other states
Who benefits?

• Students and their families
• Walk-in GED® Candidates not in your programs, if you have a PVTC test site
• Employers hiring skilled workers
• State Economy
Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment

Note: Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Data online at http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14027659&series_id=LNS14027660&series_id=LNS14027689&series_id=LNS14027662.
EARNINGS AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Unemployment rate in 2014 (%)

Doctoral degree: 2.1%
Professional degree: 1.9%
Master's degree: 2.8%
Bachelor's degree: 3.5%
Associate degree: 4.5%
Some college, no degree: 6.0%
High school diploma: 6.0%
Less than a high school diploma: 9.0%

All workers: 5.0%

Median weekly earnings in 2014 ($) 

Doctoral degree: $1,591
Professional degree: $1,639
Master's degree: $1,326
Bachelor's degree: $1,101
Associate degree: $792
Some college, no degree: $741
High school diploma: $668
Less than a high school diploma: $488

All workers: $839

Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Foresight 2020 Goal No. 3: Reduce workforce shortages in high-demand fields

Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, Kansas, 2012

"The beginning is the most important part of the work."
— Plato
LET'S GET TO WORK!
THANK YOU

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