

# The Texas GED Problem Is Getting Worse

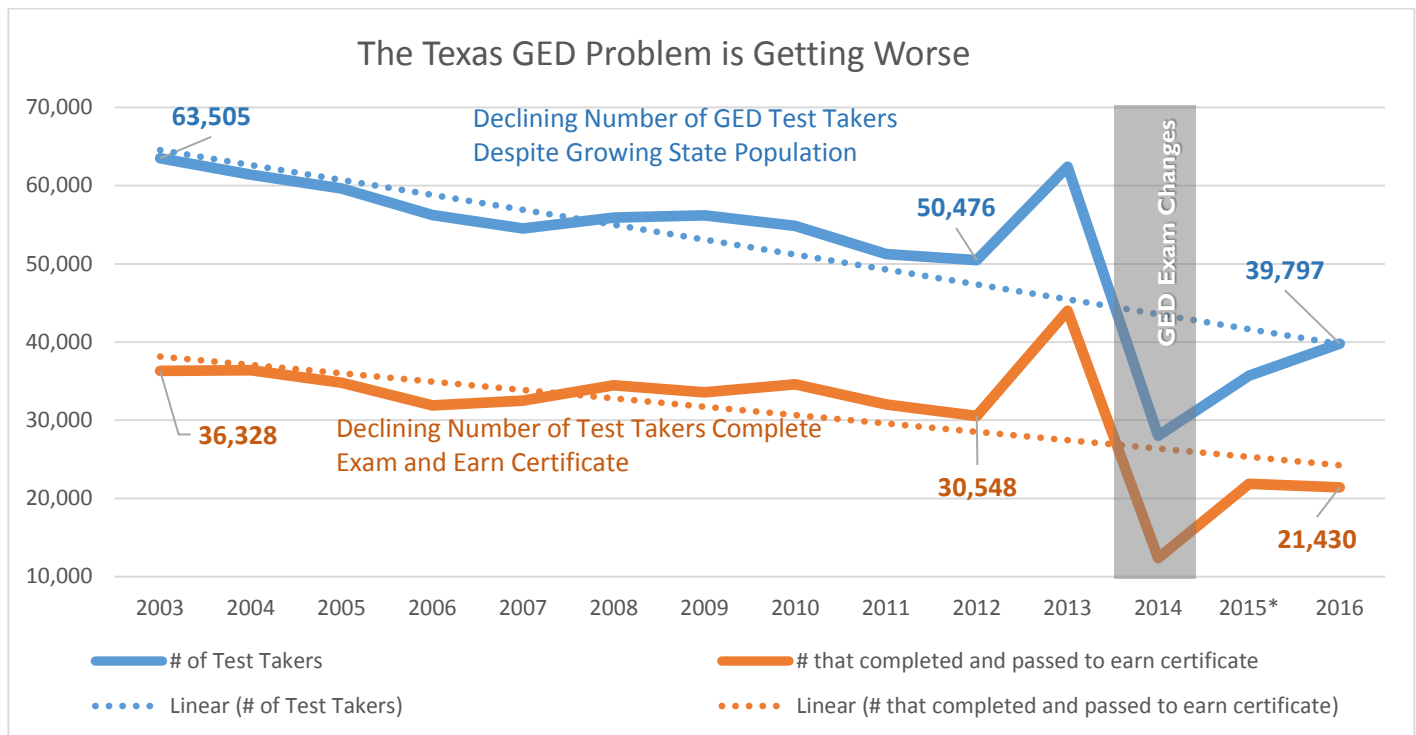
As our population grows, the number of GED test takers is dropping

by Chandra Villanueva

A high school diploma is the cornerstone of education in the United States and is required for most types of employment. And yet, in Texas there are more than 3 million adults who lack a high school diploma or equivalent. Changes to the national GED test in 2014 made this problem worse. Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Legislature have appointed a committee to study school finance during the legislative interim period, and the State Board of Education (SBOE) is currently forming a new [long-range plan for public education](#). Both entities should engage in a full discussion of the GED problem in Texas and identify goals and strategies to help address shortcomings.

## Why are So Few Texans Taking and Passing the GED Exam?

The Texas education system does not do enough to help adults who did not complete high school obtain their high school credential. Between 2003 and 2012, an average of 33,700 students per year from across the state received their high school equivalency credential by passing the GED. During the same time period, there was a gradual decline in the number of test takers in the state, despite significant population growth. In 2014, following the introduction of a new GED test in collaboration with the Pearson company, the number of students who were able to pass the exams and obtain their Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency declined dramatically. The Texas Legislature must address this issue at this critical period for high school equivalency programming.



Source: Data obtained from the Texas Education Agency

\* In 2015, GED administrators reduced the score needed to pass the new version of the test and applied that change retroactively for 2014 test takers. TEA estimates that an additional 3,200 Texans earned a high school equivalency due to the pass score change over those two years. Because the change was retroactive, TEA reports 2014 and 2015 data combined. Our analysis uses 2014 numbers made available before the pass score change, with all the retroactive HSE awards reflected in 2015. Before the pass score change, TEA reported 28,020 test takers and 12,372 HSE certificates awarded in 2014.

## Are New Alternatives to the GED Exam Helping Texans?

As Pearson's GED test has encountered criticism across the country following changes to the exam in 2014, two competitors, McGraw-Hill (now Data Recognition Corporation, or DRC) and Educational Testing Service (ETS) took the opportunity to introduce alternatives to the GED exam. In January 2016, the SBOE voted to allow for DRC's Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and ETS's

High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) to certify high school equivalency in Texas. Students now have three different test options that will enable them to receive a Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency from the Texas Education Agency. ETS's HiSET test became available January 2017, and DRC's TASC exam has yet to be administered in Texas. As a result of this change, the SBOE also decided to increase the administrative fee charged to test takers from \$15 to \$25 due to the increased cost of processing three different exams, effectively increasing the cost to all students.

	GED	HiSET	TASC
<b>Vendor Fee</b>	\$80	\$50	\$54
<b>State Administrative Fee</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25
<b>Test Center Fee</b>	\$40	\$50	\$45
<b>Total Fee per Test</b>	\$145	\$125	\$124

Data Source: Texas Education Agency, 2017

## Legislative and State Board Recommendations to Address the GED Problem

Changes to the GED test and state approval of two new exams creates an environment of uncertainty for those looking to attain their Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency. Both the Texas Legislature and the SBOE can review the implementation of these tests and ensure that the state helps more students obtain their diplomas or Texas Certificates of High School Equivalency. They should consider two critical strategies:

### Track Long-Term Outcomes for All Three High School Equivalency Tests

The state has very little data available on adults who have participated in a high school equivalency preparatory program. There is also no data-matching to track the long-term educational and workplace outcomes of test takers and completers. The state should track more information about the students who get their high school equivalency and report on what sort of career and educational outcomes they achieve. With the introduction of the new exam options, the state should examine whether outcomes are similar among test takers who complete different exams.

### Align High School Equivalency Testing with Developmental Education Testing

Students entering college must demonstrate that they are ready for college-level work to avoid enrolling in and paying for remedial education courses that do not provide college credit. While there are several ways to meet this requirement – such as scoring at a benchmark level on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) or by earning a high score on the SAT, ACT, or the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI) – Texas does not accept the college ready designation included in any of the approved high school equivalency tests. This creates an additional barrier for adult students who have earned their Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency but still must sit through another long, standardized test and pay an additional fee in order to test out of remedial education courses in college. The state should work with high school equivalency test providers to determine how they can align their college ready standards with the state's own TSI assessment.

Read more in the report, *The Texas GED Problem Is Getting Worse*, at [CPPP.org](http://CPPP.org). The report is a follow-up to CPPP's July 2015 report, [Texas Has a GED Problem](#).

# THE TEXAS GED PROBLEM IS GETTING WORSE

*Not Enough Texans are Earning their High School Equivalency*

By Chandra Villanueva, Nicole Fillion and Abby Pfeiffer

## Abstract

Texas has a large and growing population of adults who do not have a high school diploma or something equivalent. Recent changes to the national GED test and the introduction of additional exams in Texas have potentially exacerbated the problem. This report presents information derived from a community assessment of the Austin and San Antonio regions that looked closely at how programs operate and how they are helping students prepare for high school equivalency exams. Based on that analysis, the report concludes with a set of recommendations for state policymakers and business leaders.

## High School Equivalency in Texas

### Educational Attainment and the Future of the Texas Economy

A high school diploma is the cornerstone of education in the United States and is required for most jobs - yet there are over 3 million adults in Texas who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent.<sup>1</sup> This accounts for approximately 17.6 percent of the adult population over the age of 25 and places Texas and California in last place in the country for having the highest percentage of adults without a high school level education.<sup>2</sup>

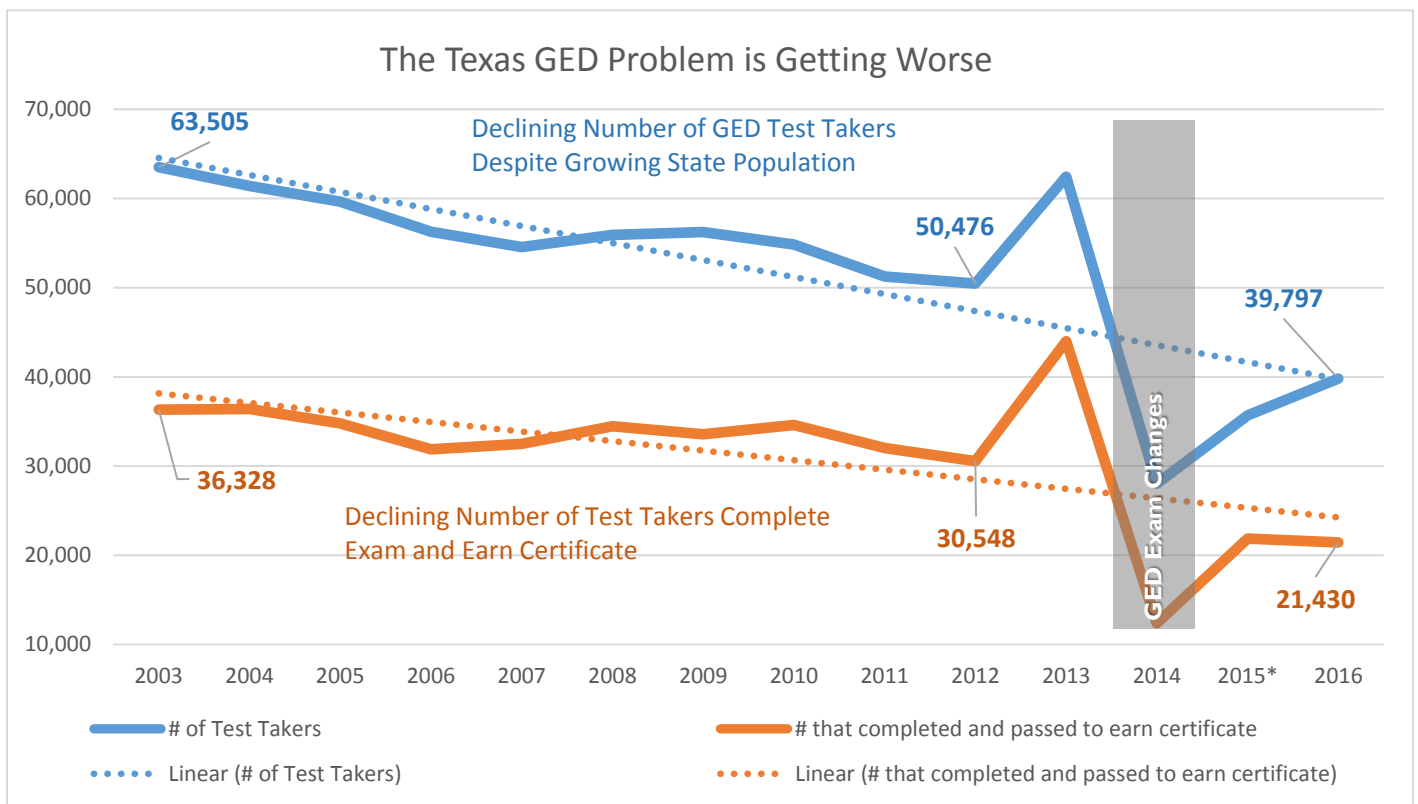
Today's global economy demands a high level of educational attainment from Texans who hope to advance in their careers and earn a family-sustaining wage. The importance of education in the workforce is even more relevant in the aftermath of the Great Recession, when workers without an education beyond high school were hit the hardest. During the recession, over 5 million jobs disappeared across the country that required only a high school level of education.<sup>3</sup> After the recession, fewer than 80,000 of those jobs returned as of January 2016.<sup>4</sup> By comparison, 1.7 million jobs requiring some college or an associate's degree were lost during the recession, and over 3 million were gained in the recovery.<sup>5</sup>

The educational requirements of the future workforce are also significant because educational attainment is closely correlated with future earnings potential. Adults in Texas without a high school diploma or equivalent

earn significantly less income than those with higher levels of educational attainment. They have a median annual income of \$21,362, while those with a diploma or equivalent earn \$28,000 per year and those with some college or an associate’s degree earn \$35,462.<sup>6</sup>

### GED Services in Texas Are Insufficient to Meet the Needs of Adult Students

Students who do not complete high school can take a high school equivalency assessment in order to earn the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency (TxCHSE) issued by the Texas Education Agency. For years, the only assessment available in Texas has been the General Educational Development test (GED). This test was developed by the American Council on Education and, since 2014, is administered by Pearson Education.<sup>7</sup> Despite the fact that Texas has many public and private programs offering to help students prepare for the exam, the state has seen a steady decline in the number of Texans who take and pass the GED exam.



Source: Data obtained from the Texas Education Agency

\* In 2013, the number of test takers spiked in anticipation of changes to the exam that were expected to make the test more difficult to pass in 2014, when the number of test takers and completers plummeted. In 2015, GED administrators reduced the score needed to pass the new version of the test and applied that change retroactively for 2014 test takers. TEA estimates that an additional 3,200 Texans earned a HSE due to the pass score change over those two years. Because the change was retroactive, TEA reports 2014 and 2015 data combined. Our analysis uses 2014 numbers made available before the pass score change, with all the retroactive HSE awards reflected in 2015. Before the pass score change, TEA reported 28,020 test takers and 12,372 HSE certificates awarded in 2014.

The current system does not do enough to help adults without a high school diploma obtain their high school credential. The chart above shows the number of students who attempted the GED exam as well as the number of students who passed. Between 2003 and 2012, an average of 33,700 students per year from across the state received their high school equivalency credential by passing the GED.<sup>8</sup> During the same time period, there was a gradual decline in the number of test takers in the state, despite significant population growth.<sup>9</sup> In

2013, the number of test takers spiked in anticipation of changes to the exam that were expected to make the test more difficult to pass in 2014, when the number of test takers and completers plummeted.

## The GED Test

The GED exam tests students in four different areas, or modules:

- Reasoning Through Language Arts, 150 minutes
- Mathematical Reasoning, 115 minutes
- Social Studies, 70 minutes
- Science, 90 minutes<sup>10</sup>

Students register for the exam at GED.com, where they choose their preferred exam date and time. Each section is scheduled separately, so students will often take multiple days to complete the exam. They also pay for the exam through the website. The current cost to take the exam in Texas is \$36.25 per module, for a total of \$145.<sup>11</sup> If students do not pass one or more of the modules, they can retake that module for an additional fee. Students are eligible for a discounted price on the exam if they are taking it for a second time.<sup>12</sup>

All exams must be taken at an official testing center. These centers are set up to administer computer- and paper-based tests and are unaffiliated with any of the preparatory programs that students may be enrolled in prior to the test.

In order to pass one of the modules, a student must earn a level 2 score for that section. There are four different performance levels students can achieve:

- Performance Level 1: Below Pass (Scaled Scores 100 - 144)
- Performance Level 2: Pass/High School Equivalency (Scaled Scores 145 - 164)
- Performance Level 3: GED® College Ready (Scaled Scores 165 - 174)
- Performance Level 4: GED® College Ready + Credit (Scaled Scores 175 - 200)<sup>13</sup>

The higher performance levels were added in January 2016 and can lead to additional benefits for students. If students earn a level 3 score, they are considered “College Ready.” This distinction can be used by institutions of higher education to exempt students from remedial courses or placement exams in that subject.<sup>14</sup> If students score at level 4, they may be able to receive college credit, again at the discretion of participating institutions.<sup>15</sup>

## Changes to High School Equivalency Testing

### Changes to the GED

The American Council on Education (ACE) created the GED test in 1942 in order to provide students who did not complete high school with a second chance at obtaining their high school credential. The exam was updated in 1978, 1988, and 2002.<sup>16</sup> In 2011, ACE announced a public-private partnership with Pearson that would lead to the development of a new exam aligned with new standards intended to test if students were prepared to succeed in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century global economy.<sup>17</sup> The new version of the exam was introduced in 2014.

That exam, while intended to better prepare students for college and careers, has also had the unintended consequence of reducing the number of students who take and pass the exam, both in Texas and across the nation. The number of students who were able to pass the GED in Texas decreased significantly in 2014, reflecting the experience of the rest of the country. Nationwide, while approximately 560,000 test takers obtained a GED in 2013, only 86,000 people earned their GED in 2014.<sup>18</sup>

There are several reasons why fewer students are taking and passing the GED exam. For starters, many students feel the new exam is more challenging.<sup>19</sup> The test is also now administered via computer, which has led to an increase in negative perceptions among test-takers and a desire for additional training and support among teachers and students.<sup>20</sup>

In response to criticism about the difficulty of the new exam, Pearson lowered the score that would enable a student to pass. In 2014, students needed a score of 150 to pass. That threshold was reduced to 145 in 2016, with an announcement that this change would also retroactively affect test-takers since the introduction of the test in 2014. Therefore, students who scored between 145 and 150 who failed the exam before the change would be considered as having passed the exam.<sup>21</sup>

### New Test Options in Texas

As Pearson’s test encountered criticism across the country, two competitors, McGraw-Hill (now Data Recognition Corporation, or DRC) and Educational Testing Service (ETS) took the opportunity to introduce alternatives to the GED exam. Many states have chosen to approve one or both of these new exams to certify high school equivalency. As of April 2016, more than 20 states adopted alternative high school equivalency (HSE) exams.<sup>22</sup> In January 2016, the Texas State Board of Education voted to allow for DRC’s Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and ETS’s High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) to certify high school equivalency in Texas.<sup>23</sup> Students now have three different test options that will enable them to receive a TxCHSE from the Texas Education Agency.<sup>24</sup>

Unlike the new GED, the HiSET and TASC are available either as a paper-based test or as a computer-based test, and each has a lower price tag compared to the GED. Due to the increased cost of processing three different exams, the Board also decided to increase their administrative fee charged to all TxCHSE test takers from \$15 to \$25.<sup>25</sup> In addition to the GED exam, ETS’s HiSET exam became available in Texas in January 2017. DRC’s TASC exam became available to test takers in Texas in the summer of 2017.

**Table 1: Test Fees<sup>26</sup>**

	<b>GED test</b>	<b>HiSET exam</b>	<b>TASC test*</b>
<b>Vendor Fee</b>	\$80	\$50	\$54
<b>State Administrative Fee</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25
<b>Test Center Fee</b>	\$40	\$50**	\$45
<b>Total Fee</b>	\$145	\$125**	\$124

*Data Source: Texas Education Agency*

\*Through 2017

\*\*Test Center may charge additional fees

These changes create an environment of uncertainty for those looking to attain their TxCHSE, as well as for the state-run and non-profit programs helping to prepare students. Uncertainty also hovers over the value of the two new tests. Will colleges or employers prefer one test over the others? Will all three be available at every testing center, and which test might be easiest to pass? Will preparation programs teach skills for all three tests? Will the cost for taking each test change in the future?

## Community Assessment of High School Equivalency Preparatory Programs in Austin and San Antonio

Much of the information in this report is derived from a community assessment of the Austin and San Antonio regions to learn how programs operate and how they are addressing challenges associated with helping students prepare for the high school equivalency exams. CPPP conducted interviews and site visits with providers to evaluate their experiences and develop policy recommendations for state policymakers and exam preparation service providers. A full list of providers is available in the Appendix.

CPPP found that providers in the Austin and San Antonio regions faced similar challenges in providing meaningful instruction for the wide range of students seeking their TxCHSE. The amount of time needed to prepare for the GED and the specific support services required varies significantly by student. Those who have not attended high school at all will have more difficulty preparing for the test than students who left school during high school. Furthermore, some students will require English language instruction, academic skills development or computer literacy training in order to successfully obtain their high school equivalency and transition into postsecondary education or the workplace.

**Table 2: Educational Attainment in the United States, Texas, Bexar County, and Travis County**

	United States <sup>27</sup>	State of Texas <sup>28</sup>	Bexar County <sup>29</sup>	Travis County <sup>30</sup>
<b>25+ Population</b>	216,447,163	17,472,861	1,201,795	795,105
<b>Over 25 without a diploma or equivalent</b>	27,826,126 (12.9% of total)	3,071,142 (17.6% of total)	201,738 (16.8% of total)	92,636 (11.7% of total)
Less than 9th grade	11,988,039	1,559,568	93,641	55,341
9th grade to 12th grade	15,838,087	1,511,574	108,097	37,295

Data Source: American Community Survey 2015 Estimates

There are several options available for adults wanting to prepare for a high school equivalency test:

- 1. Adult Education and Literacy Programs (State-Sponsored)**  
 State sponsored programs offer TxCHSE prep courses, English as a Second Language courses, and general literacy courses (Adult Basic Education and Adult Secondary Education) to any adult who wishes to enroll. These programs are supported through federal and state funding at about \$921 per student.<sup>31</sup> These programs tend to be offered by community colleges in the Austin area and through community colleges, school districts, or community organizations in San Antonio.
- 2. Community Non-Profit Literacy and Support Programs**  
 There are numerous small non-profit organizations working in Austin and San Antonio to improve adult literacy and to prepare students for the TxCHSE tests. Often, non-profit programs target a specific population like Spanish speakers or families with young children. These programs do not receive state funding for their services and thus are not required to report data on their students to the state. A non-exhaustive list of the non-profit programs available is included in the Appendix.
- 3. Workplace-Sponsored Programs**  
 Programs coordinated through an employer take many forms. Employers might offer tuition reimbursement, online instruction, and/or opportunities for career advancement. McDonald's' Archways to Opportunity program began as an English as a Second Language (ESL) program but has expanded to support students seeking their high school credential through free enrollment in Career Online High School, which enables adults to obtain their high school diplomas online.<sup>32</sup>

Pearson has partnered with many employers, including Walmart and Taco Bell, to provide access to online GED prep classes and provide a mentor to guide students through the process under its GEDWorks program.<sup>33</sup> Dollar General has its own foundation providing grants to nonprofit organizations that provide adult literacy and education services.<sup>34</sup> These are just a few examples of the myriad workplace literacy programs that are available.

#### 4. *Correctional Facility Programs*

13,700 adults acquired their TxCHSE in 2014 while incarcerated.<sup>35</sup> Prisoners have ample time to study and fewer barriers to accessing test prep or test centers. Correctional facilities still provide the paper-based version of the GED as computers are not widely available. These programs have been shown to reduce re-incarceration rates and ease the transition into society.<sup>36</sup> According to a study completed by the RAND Corporation, academic or vocationally focused education has reduced re-incarceration rates nationwide from 43.3 percent to 30.4 percent, resulting in significant cost savings and increased productivity for society and individuals.<sup>37</sup>

#### 5. *An Alternative Public-Private Model: The Goodwill Excel Center*

The Goodwill Excel Center is an exception to the rule that dropout recovery charter schools must be for students under the age of 26. The Goodwill Excel Adult Charter's high school diploma-granting program has a capacity of 150 students over the age of 26.<sup>38</sup> This program is the only program we were able to identify that had more demand than availability and that allows adults over 26 to earn a high school diploma rather than an equivalency credential. The Goodwill Excel Charter also has a program for students under the age of 26; this program has a capacity of 350 students and does not have a waitlist.<sup>39</sup> This program is able to offer high school diplomas to students over the age of 26 due to a recent change in state law and a funding match by Goodwill Industries. The Excel Center offers additional services such as free childcare, one-on-one counseling and career planning, extensive computer instruction, transportation vouchers, and ESL classes to help their adult learners succeed.<sup>40</sup>

In addition to programs that help adults earn their TxCHSE, there are also programs available in Texas that help students and young adults earn their high school diploma after they have dropped out of high school.

#### 6. *Dropout Recovery Schools*

Dropout recovery schools have programs targeted to teens who have dropped out of traditional schooling. They offer self-paced learning, flexible schedules, and the opportunity to gain a high school diploma after completing mastery assignments across subject areas. Schools designated as dropout recovery schools can be traditional public schools or charter schools. Because these schools receive funding as public schools, they cannot offer instruction to students over the age of 26.

## Recommendations

Texas has a GED problem, and it's getting worse. Recent changes to the GED exam have led to a significant decline in students taking and passing the exam to earn their TxCHSE. In order to reverse this trend, the state must work with industry and non-profit partners to ensure more students are taking and passing one of the three exams that will enable them to obtain their certificate. Based on CPPP's analyses and community assessments in Austin and San Antonio, the following recommendations were identified as high-priority solutions to the challenges faced by students and service providers.



## For state policymakers

The current network of adult education programs must make improvements to better serve the population of Texans who lack their high school credential. In order to improve the existing system, the state legislature should focus on the following issues during the 2018 interim leading up to the 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session:

- *Track Long-Term Outcomes*

The state has very little data available about adults who have participated in preparatory programs, and there is no data-matching to track their long-term educational and workplace outcomes. The state should track more information about the students who get their high school equivalency and what sort of career and educational outcomes they achieve. The state should also track differences among the three exams. This data can help the state answer important questions when evaluating the effectiveness of different programs and exams. For example, what can be learned about the effectiveness of the GED now, and what can be learned about the two new high school equivalency tests a few years after they have been fully implemented? Should Texas continue to offer all three high school equivalency tests? Are all three accepted equally? How do student outcomes vary among the different tests?

By tracking the progress and outcomes of students, the state can collect important information about the value of a TxCHSE and the relative benefits of each equivalency test.

- *Promote Data Sharing Between Programs*

Adult education programs that receive contracts from the Texas Workforce Commission can only track their success through their own data. While these programs often have a good idea of what they could improve upon, they do not have information available to compare themselves with other programs. With access to other programs' data, they could identify peer programs facing similar challenges to learn best practices and strategies. The state should provide a space for their program partners to request and share data to optimize collaboration and performance improvements.

- *Expand Programs That Demonstrate Career and College Placement*

Some programs provide supports that help guide students into career and college placement. An example is Restore Education, a San Antonio area adult education program that has a close partnership with San Antonio College and helps ensure student success by offering guidance and counseling to students even after moving into postsecondary education. Another initiative that does this well is Accelerate Texas – a state-wide effort led by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission that co-enrolls students in TxCHSE exam prep classes and workforce training certificate classes in order to quickly help students transition into better-paying jobs. Accelerate Texas targets major Texas industries and integrates completion of postsecondary education with a career pathway, connecting these students with employers.<sup>41</sup> The program also provides support services for students. The state should continue to fund and expand initiatives like Accelerate Texas and incentivize programs to develop strong support networks and available pathways for students after achieving their credential.

- *Align High School Equivalency Testing with Developmental Education Testing*

Students entering college must demonstrate that they are ready for college-level work to avoid enrolling in and paying for remedial education courses that do not provide college credit.<sup>42</sup> While there are several ways to meet this requirement – such as scoring at a benchmark level on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) or by earning a high score on the SAT, ACT, or the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) – Texas does not accept the college-ready designation included in some of the approved high school equivalency tests. This creates an additional barrier for adult

students who have earned their TxCHSE, but must sit through another long standardized test and pay an additional fee in order to test out of remedial education courses in college.

The state should work with high school equivalency test providers to determine how they can align their college-ready standards with the state's TSI assessment. This could prevent students who test as college- and career-ready on the GED, Hi-Set or TASC assessment from having to pay for and take another test on math and reading abilities before enrolling in postsecondary education.

- *Assess Current Computer Education*

Moving the GED from a paper-based test to a computer-based test has been at the center of criticism of the new GED exam. Computer literacy is increasingly necessary in the workplace and many employers expect a basic level of computer skills of high school graduates. However, this transition to computer-based testing means that students require access to a computer and sufficient opportunity to practice, which can be an additional barrier for many test-takers. The state should collect and review data on the availability and accessibility of computers for adult education students, as well as on the availability of instruction of basic computer tasks in these programs. While access to computers is an important part of improving digital literacy, adults also need familiarity with common programs like word processing software to function well in a digitally immersive classroom or workplace.

### For businesses and private partners

Private organizations that provide high school equivalency preparatory services to adult students are essential partners that the state must work with to improve the outlook for adults in Texas. Businesses interested in increasing their commitment to supporting adult workers without a high school diploma can explore several options:

- *Conduct Internal Assessments*

Look to see how many employees – or contract employees – would benefit from greater access to high school equivalency training.

- *Support High School Equivalency Earners in the Workplace*

Companies can develop strategies to support employees who would benefit from seeking their TxCHSE. Specifically, they can provide assistance in the form of paid time off or a contribution to the cost of test prep and exam fees. Businesses can also make sure they recognize a TxCHSE as the equivalent of a high school diploma in their hiring practices.

- *Invest Time or Money in Local Programs*

Businesses should also consider investing in local adult education programs to support adults in their communities who need educational credentials. Companies can invest directly in adult education grant programs or establish their own organizations. For example, companies like Dollar General have started foundations to award grants to non-profit organizations engaged in adult education.

### Conclusion

In 2016, Texas unveiled a new fifteen-year strategic plan for higher education. Called 60x30TX, the main goal of the plan is to ensure that 60 percent of Texans aged 25 – 34 obtain a higher education certificate or degree by 2030.<sup>43</sup> With this focus on younger adults, Texas hopes to improve the state's workforce competitiveness and ensure "a prosperous future" for its residents.<sup>44</sup> While this is a key step forward for strengthening the Texas workforce, it is important to recognize that adults beyond the age of 35 are essential to the state's economy and are in need of additional assistance as well. The state cannot afford to leave 18 percent of the workforce without an accessible path to earn a high school diploma or equivalency.

## Appendix: Community Assessment of Austin and San Antonio

Austin	Name	Ages Served	Type of Classes	Cost to Student	Other Included Supports
Adult Education & Literacy	Austin Community College ( <i>Austin &amp; Round Rock locations</i> )	18+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE	Full GED test fees	college and career planning
	Community Action Inc. of Central Texas ( <i>20 prep-center locations</i> )	18+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE, entrepreneurship	Full GED test fees	college and career planning
Dropout Recovery Schools (sample)	Goodwill Excel Center Adult Charter, original	19-50	HS diploma, computer literacy	none	counseling, childcare
	Goodwill Excel Center Charter, expansion	17-26	HS diploma, computer literacy	none	counseling, childcare
	Austin Can Academy	17-26	HS diploma, digital literacy	none	meals, childcare, transport
	Premier High School ( <i>2 locations in Austin, 1 in Pflugerville</i> )	17-26	HS diploma	none	dual credit
	Priority Charter Schools ( <i>Cedar Park and Georgetown locations</i> )	17-26	HS diploma	none	
Community Non-Profit Literacy and Support Programs	Austin Learning Academy	17+	GED, ESL	Full GED test fees	one-on-one tutoring
	Aspire Family Literacy	parents 17+	GED, ESL, computer literacy	Full GED test fees	childcare, home visits, intergenerational literacy activities
	Ascend Center for Learning	17+	GED, ABE/ASE, computer literacy, office skills	Full GED test fees	job readiness program
	Austin Area Urban League	17+	GED, computer literacy, office skills	Full GED test fees	business site visits and mock interviews
	Lifeworks Austin	16-26	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE	Full GED test fees	counseling, childcare
	La Fuente Learning Center	17+	GED (English & Spanish), ESL, computer literacy	Full GED test fees	
	El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Center	17+	ESL, GED, citizenship, computer literacy	Full GED test fees	emergency food assistance, financial education

San Antonio	Name	Ages Served	Type of Classes	Cost to Student	Other Included Supports
Adult Education and Literacy	Northside ISD	18+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE	Full GED test fees	college and career planning, computer access
	Northeast ISD	18+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE	Full GED test fees	college and career planning
	San Antonio ISD	18+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE, EL Civics	Full GED test fees	college and career planning
	South West Texas Junior College ( <i>Frio and Medina Counties</i> )	18+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE, citizenship	Full GED test fees	
	Each One Teach One	16+	GED, ABE/ASE, computer literacy	Full GED test fees	one-on-one tutoring, professional development
	Restore Education	16+	GED, ABE/ASE, study skills	Full GED test fees	one-on-one tutoring, mentorship into college years, transport, childcare
	Alamo Colleges I-Best	18+	GED, ABE/ASE, vocational ESL, career training	Full GED test fees	comprehensive skills assessment, subsidized career training
	Region 20 ESC ( <i>several locations</i> )	18+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE, EL Civics	Full GED test fees	college and career planning
Dropout Recovery Schools (sample)	San Antonio Can High School	16-26	HS Diploma, digital literacy	none	meals, childcare
	George Gervin Academy	16-26	HS Diploma	none	mentoring, counseling, workforce development, meals
	Premier High School ( <i>San Antonio and New Braunfels locations</i> )	16-26	HS Diploma	none	dual credit
	Por Vida Academy Charter High School	16-26	HS Diploma	none	meals
	Radiance Academy of Learning ( <i>3 SA campuses</i> )	16-26	HS Diploma	none	meals
Community Non-Profit Literacy and Support Programs	Catholic Charities	17+	GED, ESL	Full GED test fees	"family self-sufficiency" services, childcare
	Youthbuild	16-24	GED	Full GED test fees	workforce training, certification in construction
	National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)	18+	GED in Spanish	Full GED test fees	
	Healy-Murphy Center	18-25	GED	Full GED test fees	individualized case management
<b>Statewide &amp; National</b>		<i>Ages Served</i>	<i>Type of Classes</i>	<i>Cost to Student</i>	<i>Other Included Supports</i>
Correctional Facilities		17+	GED, ESL, ABE/ASE	none	housing, food, etc.
Workplace Programs	GEDWorks via Walmart, Taco Bell, KFC	17+	Online GED prep	none	mentors
	McDonalds	17+	Career Online High School	none	vocational curriculum focus

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