

2**TABE online available at no cost****Fast Forward: all four subject areas available****GED® FAQs****3****KYAE marketing materials available****Math instruction opportunities****Students timing out on GED Ready™ Test?****4****Age limits for compulsory school attendance****GED Ready™ Test voucher codes distributed to programs****Students participate in good, clean, active learning****5****Fast Forward study guide****Kudos to KYAE ESL instructors****6****Local program hosts "Celebrate GED® Month"****Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education**Kentucky Adult Education
1024 Capital Center Drive
Suite 250Frankfort, KY 40601
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www.kyae.ky.gov**Walters selected to lead Alabama adult education**

David Walters holds a gift presented by his KYAE colleagues at his going-away gathering. David, who was recently named the vice chancellor of adult education and GED® testing in Alabama, began his career in adult education 19 years ago in a local program. Fifteen years ago, David began his work with KYAE, first as a consultant and then as an associate and senior associate. For the last few years, he had served as the director of program administration. As KYAE Vice-President Reecie Stagnolia said, "During his tenure here, David's knowledge from his 'boots-on-the-ground' work at the local level has been a tremendous asset to the KYAE leadership team

... David's work has helped Kentucky Adult Education establish its place as a leader in the nation."

**\$10 GED® testing now available in Kentucky**

Thanks to federal Workforce Investment Act incentive funds, KYAE has purchased 8,500 \$20 GED® testing vouchers. Because of this, while supplies last, qualified GED® test-takers will be able to take each of the four modules of the GED® test for \$10 each. Therefore, if someone takes all four sections of the test during this promotion, the test will cost \$40 instead of the standard \$120.

Once a student has passed one or more modules of the GED Ready™ Test, all you have to do to obtain a voucher is send an e-mail to ged@ky.gov that lists:

- Student's name and date of birth;
- Name of county program;
- Content modules that student is taking.

As long as you send your request by 3 p.m. (Eastern), you will receive the voucher number the same day as your request.

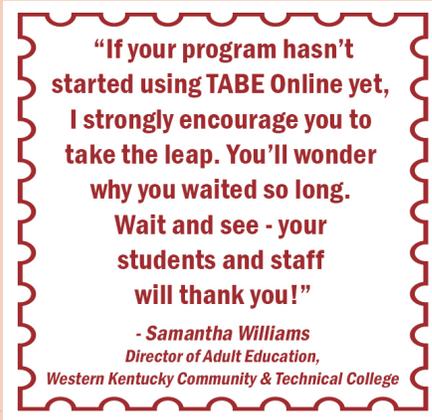
A webinar about this initiative was held on June 24 and 25. To review the webinar content, as well as questions and answers from the sessions, review the "Special GED® Test Pricing" materials found under "GED® Hot Topics Webinars" here: <http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/presentations.htm>.

To help promote the initiative, several different customizable, downloadable marketing pieces are available here: <http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/14Marketing.htm>.



REMINDER: TABE Online assessments available at no cost

In February 2013, it was announced that KYAE had purchased 250,001 online TABE assessment administrations from CTB McGraw Hill to be used by all KYAE-funded programs at no cost to the programs. Many of these administrations remain available, despite the fact that KYAE has urged programs to transition from paper-and-pencil testing to online administration. Now that all GED® testing is computer-based, the benefits of students taking online TABE assessments are even more clear. These benefits, as shared by those using TABE Online in the field, include:



- **Computer-based testing practice**
- **More efficient and effective testing**
 - o First-time testers take online Locator, which automatically places them in proper TABE level.
 - o Student moves at own pace; once each test is completed, can move forward.
 - o Test scores are available immediately.
- **Better student focus**
 - o Students move forward at an individual pace

and are able to watch a clock on the screen, if so desired. The need for noisy timers is eliminated.

- o Test-takers are presented with one question at a time at one place, as opposed to being presented with multiple questions on a page and moving from booklet to bubble sheet.
 - o Test-takers have the ability to mark questions for review, which eliminates the possibility of missing a question.
 - o The problems associated with incorrect marking (due to skipped questions, etc.) on a bubble sheet are eliminated.
 - o Students may highlight text on screen and "X" out answers they know are incorrect on screen, something prohibited in testing booklets.
- **Built-in accommodations**
 - o For those who have accommodations information set up in their profile, screen colors and font sizes may be changed for testing.
 - o Those who qualify may also have additional time allotted automatically to their online testing session.

The preliminary information shared last February about TABE Online can be found [here](#). If you have additional questions about getting started with TABE Online, please contact Jacqueline Korengel at jacqueline.korengel@ky.gov.



The Fast Forward Social Studies course is now up and running! This means that all four subject areas are now available. [Click here](#) to check it out.

GED® Frequently asked GED® questions

I just passed the GED® test! How do I get my diploma?

Our Kentucky test-takers do not have to call the KYAE office or take any action to get their diploma packets. Packets, which include a diploma, official transcript and information about accessing the eTranscript, are automatically printed and mailed from the state office in Frankfort. Most packets are mailed in less than a week.

Need a GED® transcript for school or work?

Anyone who took the GED® test in Kentucky can get their record by submitting a request at www.GED.KY.gov. All requests are ready to be sent the same day or next business day. If applicants can't wait for documents to arrive by regular mail, request an electronic document or select expedited shipping for UPS delivery in one to two business days. **All requests have to be submitted online—there is no walk-in or mail-in service.**

GED123 Access Codes still work! If a student has a GED123 access code, the code can be used at www.GED.KY.gov to view scores and print an eTranscript.

Reminder: Marketing materials available at kyae.ky.gov

If you are seeking ways to reach diverse potential student populations, don't forget to visit the KYAE Communications Resources page, located at kyae.ky.gov. To get to the page, click on the blue circular icon at the top of the homepage (as indicated in image to the right). Toward the top of the page, you will find materials for the \$10 GED® testing campaign; toward the bottom of the page, there are several marketing pieces geared toward targeted audiences. There are also many “retention-builder” certificates available for download and customization to help you celebrate student successes.

If you have marketing, recruitment or retention needs, please contact Missy Brownson for assistance: missy.brownson@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 123.



Two outstanding, upcoming math instruction opportunities

Strengthening Adult Numeracy Teaching and Learning Workshop with Steve Hinds

Due to the success of last year's **Active Learning in Adult Numeracy (ALAN) Initiative**, Steve Hinds, nationally recognized mathematics curriculum developer with City Colleges of Chicago, is expanding his work with KYAE math instructors to include two ALAN cohorts of 25 instructors each who will be selected through an application process. The fall cohort will utilize his Number Sense and Measurement curriculum and the spring cohort will utilize his Number Sense, Place Value and Operations curriculum.

To build awareness for ALAN and to introduce his instructional strategies, Steve will again offer his **Strengthening Adult Numeracy Teaching and Learning Workshop** on functions. The functions workshop will be offered twice this year: **August 14** at KET in Lexington and **August 15** at the Ahrens Learning Center in Louisville. Registration for each workshop will be limited to the first 25 instructors to enroll through the PD Catalog when it becomes available August 1st. Participants will receive a set of seven lessons presenting carefully scaffolded activities beginning with

The Function Machine and ending with Solving One-Variable Equations.

How to Learn Math: For Students – Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from Jo Boaler, Stanford University

Those of you who enrolled in Dr. Boaler's **How to Learn Math: For Teachers and Parents** MOOC offered last fall found the content to be extremely beneficial. Dr. Boaler is now offering a follow-up MOOC, **How to Learn Math: For Students**. Though the new course is designed for middle school to adult students, its content would be relevant for instructors as well. The course consists of a sequence of six short, interactive lessons from 10 to 20 minutes each. Course goals include:

- Teaching students a growth mindset
- Giving students a positive relationship with mathematics
- Teaching students powerful mathematics strategies

You can register and take the course (which is open until December 14), or watch a promo video by [clicking here](#). To learn more about Dr. Boaler's courses, math tasks, videos and pedagogy, visit www.youcubed.org.

Students timing out on GED Ready™ Test?

Some providers have expressed concern over students timing out on the GED Ready™ Test. GEDTS™ is responsible for the technical aspect of the test, so we recommend that the student and/or instructor having technical issues use the chat function at GED.com. To find it, go to the sign-in page at GED.com; it can be found in the footer under “contact us.” [Here is the direct link](#).

Sometimes, timing out is related to inactivity from the student. If the testing program thinks the student is no longer responding, the test will time out. To avoid this, students should regularly click, scroll or type so the testing software recognizes they are still testing.



Age limits for compulsory school attendance (KRS 159.010)

The change to 18 for the legal drop-out age will become effective beginning in the 2015–16 school year.

The first group of schools that approved the change will start implementing the change at that time. The change will continue to be phased in with state-wide adoption during the 2017-2018 school year. [Click here](#) to access complete law.

We share the same goal as Kentucky K-12 educators and administrators – we want all students to have the opportunity to earn a traditional high school diploma. It is only when all options to earn that traditional high school diploma have been exhausted, that we offer the second chance to high school completion, which is the GED® test.

Additional free GED Ready™ Test voucher codes distributed to programs

Due to KYAE programs' hard work, KYAE and Department for Workforce Investment met their state goals in 2011-12, resulting in the receipt of Workforce Investment Act incentive funds.

Consequently, KYAE purchased additional Ready Test™ voucher codes, which your program should have received. The amount received is based upon the previously used formula.

KET distributed the voucher codes, as before, via email.

Please be sure you have saved the codes (and backup-saved the codes) to ensure their safe keeping.

Students participate in good, clean, active learning

By Sharyl Markham, Logan County Adult Education

Our staff, being proactive and realizing that changes were necessary to teach the new challenging and relevant 2014 GED® curriculum, decided classroom modifications were needed. To have successful students, we needed to create an enriched and affirming learning environment, have high-quality instructional resources, and make valid and comprehensive assessments of our classrooms. So, we brainstormed, developed, and implemented a new classroom outline. It was decided that new research-based core principles were to be taught in the first hour, and the second hour would be “student active learning,” featuring activities that encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of content by working with and reflecting upon the material that was presented in the first hour.

In active learning, teachers are facilitators rather than one-way providers of information. The presentation of facts, so often introduced through straight lecture, is deemphasized in favor of class discussion, problem solving, cooperative learning, and writing exercises (graded and ungraded). Other examples of active learning techniques include role-playing, case studies, group projects, think-pair-share, peer teaching, debates, Just-in-Time Teaching, and short demonstrations followed by class discussion.

The last week of our fifth session, we decided to put our students' measurement skills to test. We studied all types of measurements the first hour, and the second hour we used this information by mixing ingredients to create their own home-made washing powders; this was no easy task. We had 12 students, so we had to make sure that we had enough ingredients for each student to make some detergent. All the boxes were measured by ounces or pounds, and we had to shave soap bars, and then measure the soap shavings by cups. Once we had collected all the ingredients, we then had to convert everything to cups. Then, we started to mix all the ingredients – in a trash can! To make enough soap for 12 students, we needed something pretty big, and a trash can worked perfectly. Each student mixed his/her own soap, so each student had to convert from either pounds or ounces, to cups. With the active learning process, these students transitioned from being mere recipients of information to being participants actively engaging with new information in a learning environment –and we now have the cleanest students in Logan County.



FAST FORWARD™

YOUR STUDY GUIDE FOR THE GED® TEST

By Sarah Wilkins, Kentucky Educational Television

In January 2014, KYAE purchased Fast Forward seats for every adult education center in Kentucky. Since that time, over 800 teachers and learners have accessed the many helpful features of Fast Forward.

Fast Forward is designed for both classroom and individual learner use. Teachers will find a Teacher Toolkit offering classroom extension activities, additional instructional video segments, and a downloadable, printable spreadsheet detailing correlations to CCRS, CCSS and GED® Assessment Targets. They can also enroll students in reusable seats, maintain an online gradebook, track time on task, and generate a variety of reports.

Some suggestions for implementing Fast Forward in the classroom include:

- project the material on a white board and work through the lessons as a group
- assign lessons and track student progress online for learners who cannot make it to the center
- supplement class instruction by assigning particular lessons from Fast Forward
- assign lessons to be completed before or after class instruction

Learners start with an assessment to show which skills and content they already know and where they need to focus. Substantive content, clear instructions, interactive graphics, videos, and lots of practice help strengthen their knowledge base and build confidence for the full test

battery.

Although the system is offered in a completely online format, all courses include printable test tips, which can be used as flash cards or classroom study aids. An online calculator and highlighter tool were designed to mimic the tools used on the GED® test. In addition, a writing self-assessment guide is available to help teachers and learners evaluate constructed responses.

All courses feature pre- and post-tests to help learners track their progress and assess their readiness for the GED® test.

Response to the system has been positive. Comments from teachers include:

“Since the first time I logged into Fast Forward, I have been impressed with it as a tool for lesson planning and an excellent curriculum for my students who are able to work more independently.”

“We like the rigor of the practice tests. Compared to the other products we’ve seen, this program is a better match to the new exam. We are extremely glad that someone finally created new content instead of cutting and pasting together parts of the old exam.”

“Even with looming budget cuts, the one thing I have told my director: I need more Fast Forward seats! I have found the more I use it in the classroom, the more the students are encouraged to use it independently at home.”

Comments from the learners are less frequent, but no less positive. One learner submitted the following:

“I like this Program for your GED® online. It’s convenient for me to study and learn a little better than the books. You can go back and look up things you need to know about and explain things to you if you don’t understand it. I love it! Thanks KET!!!!”

If you haven’t been using Fast Forward much since you received your seats and would like some assistance in getting started or have other questions, please contact Sarah Wilkins at swilkins@ket.org.

Kudos to KYAE ESL instructors

Congratulations to five KYAE ESL instructors who have completed all four courses in the Pearson-Longman TDI Series:

- Sharon Taylor, Butler
- Sharyl Markham, Logan
- Suzan Culver, Daviess
- Joyce Nation, Daviess
- Gail Bell, Franklin

Each course has an optional final exam for those seeking a First TEFL Certificate from the English Language Teaching Institute at CUNY – Hunter College.



Celebrate!

Local program hosts “Celebrate GED® Month”

To generate awareness of and excitement about the GED® test and their instructional services, the McCreary County adult education program hosted “Celebrate GED® Month” in June. Celebration activities included:

- GED® Celebration/Open House
- Official county proclamation of June as “Celebrate GED® Month;”
- Balloon launch from McCreary Center;
- Information tables at local businesses;
- Distribution of pencils at local area schools before testing; and
- Ice cream social.

Claudia Anderson, assistant program director, says, “Our ‘Celebrate GED® Month’ went well. Our GED® Celebration/Open House was a great event. Students brought family, and we, along with members of the local Chamber of Commerce and community, celebrated their accomplishments. The students that went to the courthouse with us for the declaration signing enjoyed getting out and meeting the judge (the picture in the paper didn’t hurt, either.) Our balloon launch and ice cream social were successes with our current students. Staff loved the excitement the students showed toward our activities. We also attended the carnival days and the mud bog. We have had a few new GED® students come in, saying they had seen some of our fliers.”



Each balloon launched had a note attached with program information and inspirational quotes written by students and staff. Assistant program director Claudia Anderson said, “The students were excited to write their notes. Some wrote problems they had learned to work out, while some wrote sayings.”

Proclamation

WHEREAS: 3800 adult residents of McCreary County lack a high school diploma or GED;

WHEREAS: A person who earns their GED can gain an average increase in yearly earnings of \$9400;

WHEREAS: Educational attainment helps to diversify our economy, and also enhances the vibrancy of our community;

WHEREAS: Earning a GED can help someone become more self-sufficient and a productive member of our county;

THEREFORE: I, Doug Stephens, Judge Executive of McCreary County, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as “Celebrate GED® Month in McCreary County.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 3rd day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.

Judge Executive

Deputy Judge Executive

The McCreary County Judge Executive officially proclaimed June as “Celebrate GED® Month.”

Parting Thought • Something to challenge or inspire



“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.” --Maya Angelou