

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
GED® Testing Fees**

**Request:** The State Board is requested to sunset the paper-based GED® testing fee effective December 31, 2013. The State Board is also requested to not charge any amount above the GED® Testing Service fee for computer-based GED® testing, effective immediately.

**Background:** G.S. 115D-5(s) authorizes the State Board of Community Colleges to establish, retain, and budget fees charged to students taking the General Education Development (GED®) test. In November 2012, the State Board established the GED® testing fee for paper-based testing at \$35. The receipts from these fees currently support the GED® scoring contract with Oklahoma Scoring, 2.5 positions in the System Office's GED® Office, and related operating expenses.

**Rationale:** In addition to the traditional paper-based GED® test, GED® Testing Service has developed a computer-based version of the current battery of GED® tests (2002 GED® test series). Effective January 1, 2014, GED® Testing Service will be replacing the current battery of GED® tests with a new battery (2014 GED® test series). This new battery will only be available in a computer-based format. Because paper-based testing will no longer be available after December 31, 2013, the State Board is recommended to sunset the paper-based GED® testing fee as of that date.

Under the computer-based testing format, students register to take the GED® and pay any required fees directly through the GED® Testing Service website, rather than through the college. GED® Testing Service currently charges a fee of \$24 per test for computer-based assessments, with an additional \$24 charged for any re-tests. Since there are currently five tests in the GED® battery, the overall cost to take the entire battery is \$120. It is anticipated that as of January 1, 2014 the number of tests in the battery will be reduced from five to four; however, the price per test will increase from \$24 to \$30. This change will not change the overall cost of \$120 per student for the series of tests. To prevent students from incurring further costs, the System Office recommends that the State Board not charge any additional amount for computer-based testing. Under the computer-based format, GED® Testing Service manages test scoring. Therefore, the System Office will no longer need to contract with Oklahoma Scoring after December 31, 2013. The System Office GED® Office will continue to manage the issuance of GED® diplomas, transcripts, and verification requests. S402 shifts the costs associated with these activities from GED® testing fee receipts to General Fund appropriations effective January 1, 2014.

**Contact:**  
Jennifer Haygood  
Executive VP for Operations/CFO