# California Department of Education High School Equivalency and Proficiency Programs Summer Convenings Resource Guide

California Department of Education | August 2025

## Welcome

### California Department of Education—Today’s Presenters

* Bernadine Holman: Education Program Consultant, High School Equivalency Program
* Gita Raman: Education Program Consultant, High School Proficiency Program
* Don Killmer: Education Administrator, Proficiency, Equivalency, and Fitness Testing Office

## High School Equivalency Program

### Eligibility

The High School Equivalency (HSE) Program is for individuals who are

* not enrolled in high school;
* eighteen years of age or older; or
* seventeen years of age under certain circumstances.

[California Department of Education (CDE) HSE eligibility web page](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd/hseligibilityreqs.asp)

### HSE Exam Subtests

#### GED® has four subtests:

* Reading and Writing
* Mathematics
* Social Studies
* Science

[GED Test Subjects web page](https://www.ged.com/about_test/test_subjects/)

#### HiSET has five subtests:

* Reading
* Writing
* Mathematics
* Social Studies
* Science

[HiSET About the HiSET web page](https://hiset.org/test-takers-about/)

[GED Accommodations web page](https://www.ged.com/en/accommodations/)

[HiSET Accommodations for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-Related Needs web page](https://hiset.org/test-takers-accommodations/)

### Exam Options

* Online, from home, with live proctors (both vendors)
* In-person, at a testing center (both vendors)
* Computer-based testing (both vendors)
* Paper-based testing at select testing sites (only HiSET)

[HiSET Find Testing & Adult Education Centers web page](https://hiset.org/prepare-for-your-test/testing-centers/)

[GED website](https://www.ged.com/en/)

### HSE Minimum Passing Scores

[GED Test Scores web page](https://www.ged.com/about_test/scores/)

[HiSET Get Your Scores & Credentials web page](https://hiset.org/test-takers-hiset-scores/%22%20%5Co%20%22HiSET%20Get%20Your%20Scores%20%26%20Credentials%20web%20page)

### After Passing the HSE

[GED Grads and Transcripts web page](https://www.ged.com/life_after_ged/)

[HiSET Get Your Scores & Credentials web page](https://hiset.org/test-takers-hiset-scores/)

### Ordering Document Reprints

To place an order of a GED certificate or transcript, a passer needs to use the [GED Transcripts web page](https://www.ged.com/transcripts/california/).

* GED Parchment help desk phone number: 1-888-906-4031

To place an order of a HiSET certificate or transcript, a passer needs to use the [Parchment HiSET Learner Account web page](https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/24172917/institution).

* HiSET Parchment help desk phone number: 1-888-662-0874

## The California Proficiency Program

* California Proficiency Program (CPP) for currently enrolled students
* Established by the California *Education Code* Section 48412 on the [California Legislative Information Code Section web page](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=48412)
* Excelling or struggling students
* Certificate of Proficiency
* Subjects covered:
	+ Mathematics
	+ Language Arts
		- Reading
		- Writing
* HiSET is the only CPP Vendor
* College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards
* Accepted at CA junior colleges, CA state universities, and the universities of CA
* Accepted by CA employers
* Test takers advised to check with prospective employer or university to ensure the Certificate of Proficiency is accepted and all pre-requisites have been completed

### CPP Eligibility

The CPP is for students who are

* + at least sixteen years of age and currently enrolled in high school;
	+ in their second semester of tenth grade; **or**
	+ enrolled in grade ten for one year or longer.

Students must also:

* + be enrolled in a California Public High School;
	+ attend a private school or be homeschooled; **or**
	+ possess a work Permit issued by the Department of Industrial Relations.

For more detailed information, please read the eligibility criteria posted on the [CDE CPP web page](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/cp.asp).

**CPP Testing Options**

* Testing available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
* Test at home through online proctoring
* Test at a testing center on the computer
* Paper and pencil testing available at some testing centers
* Scores available within 48 hours after testing on the student’s HiSET Profile

**Minimum Passing Scores**

* CPP cut score higher than HSE
* Score at least 15/20 on each subtest:
	+ Language Arts
	+ Reading
	+ Writing
	+ Mathematics
* Score at least 4/6 on the Writing subtest
* Achieve a total scaled score of at least 45/60 on all three subtests

**Opportunities After Passing the CPP**

* Exit high school with parent/guardian approval
* Enroll in higher education
* Embark on a career
* Stay in high school

### Homeless and Foster Youth Fee Waiver

If you are under the age of twenty-five (and certified as a homeless youth by a homeless services provider) or a foster youth as defined in California *Education Code* Section 48412, you qualify for a fee waiver for the HSE and CPP tests.

* [CDE Homeless and Foster Youths: Fee Waiver for HSE and Proficiency Tests flyer (PDF)](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd/documents/hfyfeewaiver.pdf)
* [CDE Homeless Certification Form (PDF)](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd/documents/homelesscertform.pdf)

### Questions and Answers

### Contact Us

#### CDE HSE Office

* Email: HSEoffice@cde.ca.gov
* Phone: 916-445-9438

#### CDE CHSPE Office

* Email: CHSPE@cde.ca.gov
* Phone: 916-445-9449

#### CDE CPP Office

* Email: CPP@cde.ca.gov
* Phone: 916-445-9449
* To join the email list, send a blank email message to subscribe-caaspp@mlist.cde.ca.gov.
* Are you a new subscriber? Visit the [CDE Assessment Spotlight web page](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/assessmentspotlight.asp).
* Follow the [California Statewide Assessment System @CDEAssessments on ​X](https://x.com/cdeassessments)

**Thank You!**