

THE PATH TO YOUR HSED

Long Term

At a Glance



WHAT IT IS

High School Equivalency Degree (HSED) is an alternative to having a high school diploma | You have to pass a series of exams (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) and you get your high school diploma equivalent when you pass them all | There are two types of exams - the GED and HiSET - and both can be taken in Spanish



WHAT DOES IT TAKE

If you've been to school but not high school, the first step is to figure out where your strengths are academically and where you need to spend more time studying. This is done with academic placement tests in math and language arts. Then you are studying to make sure you are strong in all academic subjects and ready to study for the HSED exams.



YOU END UP WITH

The ability to enroll in a HSED preparation program and some vocational training programs | Increased confidence in ability and academic study skills



MOBILITY/TIME

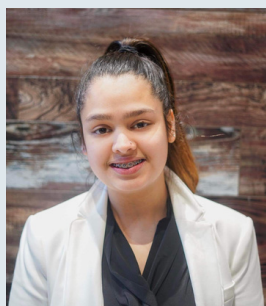
You need a minimum of 2-5 hours per week available to study | You must be able to spend time studying every week | It is best if you have time to attend community based tutoring/classes (in person or virtually) | This can take 1-3 years to complete.



THE REALITIES

Much time is spent studying and strengthening academic skills | The amount of time depends on your abilities and how long it has been since you were last in school | Academics can be combined with English classes | It is recommended to enroll in a program or work with instructors who have experience with pre-HSED preparation.

Student Profile



Chanda is a 16-year-old who came to Pennsylvania from a refugee camp in Nepal, where she completed seven out of the 10 years of school. She would like to enroll in high school, but lives with her single mom and four siblings that she needs to support. She works the late-night shift at a meat processing plant so it is difficult to enroll in school or attend pre-GED classes. When Chanda is not working, she sleeps a few hours before taking care of her younger siblings while her mom goes to work at a hotel. Her English is intermediate, and she would like some lessons to become more proficient. The PAMEP was able to connect Chanda with a provider who did a locator test to see her academic strengths and weaknesses and is working to develop a study plan that will help Chanda prepare to do self-study for the GED.

Skills for Success



Acknowledging when you don't understand something but know when to ask for help and who can help



Persevere even when something is difficult and you may not get it at first.



Interested in working on identified skill gaps and focus on both strengths and areas that need more work



Set goals, both short ones that you can achieve in a few months and longer ones. This whole process can take 2-3 years to achieve!

Academics



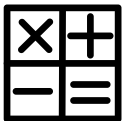
READ

- Build a strong vocabulary and ask critical questions about what you have read.
- Summarize and analyze what was read, identifying the main ideas and supporting details.
- Be able to use text evidence, understand maps, illustrations, and graphs.
- Read a variety of different types of books and literature.



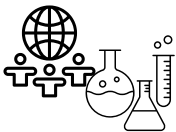
WRITE

- Write a multi-paragraph persuasive essay that uses evidence from a provided text
- Write sentences correctly with proper spelling and grammar
- Use the writing process to edit and revise to make a logical and clear message



MATH

- Addition, subtraction, multiplication y division
- Algebra and geometry
- Relationships between fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, and proportions
- How to use measurement, solve word problems and basic financial management



SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES

- Use information from texts and graphics to interpret science and social studies topics
- Compare and evaluate data
- Read and understand charts and graphs, including timelines

Student Profile



Kody is 18 and works with his extended family who have been shrimping their entire lives in Louisiana. He and his family move between Houma and Grand Isle often every fishing season, resulting in Kody and his siblings being away from Houma around 45-50 days per year. This interruption was so difficult that Kody decided by the end of 6th grade to be homeschooled in order to spend more time shrimping. Homeschooling did not work well for him and he did not complete the 7th grade requirements and stopped school.

Kody loves shrimping and wants to expand the business. He knows he needs more schooling to do so. The LAMEP worked with Kody to develop a study plan that has materials available both online and off, allowing him to strengthen his academic skills whenever he can study, whether he has internet or not. Kody's MEP provider checks in with him weekly to support and monitor his progress. Kody's long-term goal is to be able to take a local entrepreneurship course and develop a marketing plan for his family's shrimping business.

Ways to Start

READ



Reading comprehension (being able to read different types of text, understand what you read, and talk about what you are reading) is one of the key skills to be able to successfully complete the HSED exams. It doesn't matter what you are reading or what language you read in. The most important thing is that you are reading a lot, talking about what you read, and then connecting what you read with other areas in your life including comparing it what you have read in the past.



PRE-HSED CLASSES

There may be classes at community education centers that will help you see what you have learned and mastered and what areas you need to study more. Classes are not just academic, but can also be weekly check-ins, helping you stay on track, helping address barriers, providing a quiet study space, and helping you stay accountable.



SET GOALS

HSED is a big project and sometimes can feel like it is TOO MUCH. Remembering the reasons you are doing this and then breaking the to-do list into smaller tasks can help. This is goal setting and something that the MEP can help you with.



CONNECT WITH SOMEONE WHO WILL HELP

Sometimes it's not academics you need help with, but someone to check with and make sure you're studying and staying on track. There are also always things that can happen in our lives that can be an obstacle for us to progress.

Having someone to help address those obstacles goes a long way!

Student Profile



Mary is a German Mennonite OSY in Kansas. She and her sister completed 8th grade but now stay home to prepare for marriage by learning to cook, clean, and take care of younger siblings. Mary and her sister are preparing for their presentation to the community, and Mary has expressed a goal to become a great baker. The KSMEP service provider focused on that interest in baking and provided lessons with math measurements, English, reading, and filling out forms. Mary's sister started joining the lessons and learned alongside. Mary felt successful in those lessons and decided she wanted to complete her high school education. Mary took a locator test which showed she had some gaps and needed to work on some pre-HSED materials before starting a HSED prep program to be most successful.