

Office of Career and College Readiness

High School Equivalency (HSE) Guidance

Obtaining a High School Equivalency (HSE) credential may be a viable option for an overage under-credited student based on their unique needs and individual circumstances. An HSE credential can position an overage under-credited student for a career or continued education. The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) governs [HSE](#).

This guidance document is intended to support school administrators and staff in evaluating and pursuing the option of an HSE program and credential for an overage under-credited student.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ):

Q: How can a student earn a HSE credential?

A: In Louisiana, there are [5 pathways](#) to earn an HSE credential.

Q: Why is GED/HiSET® branded as High School Equivalency (HSE)?

A: LCTCS recommends using HSE as the standard reference so that no matter which “brand” of high school equivalency test LCTCS adopts (HiSET®, GED®, TASC™), the “policy” applies to any/all HSE tests. Currently, LCTCS recognizes the GED and HiSET® for HSE.

Q: Is a student able to pursue a GED or HiSET® credential independently, or is the student required to enroll in an approved HSE program?

A: A student aged 16-18 must enroll/transfer into a school system-monitored HSE program or an [LCTCS WorkReady U](#) Adult Education Program to pursue a GED or HiSET® credential. A student aged 19 or older may take an HSE exam without being enrolled in a program.

Q: What is a school system-monitored HSE program?

A: A HSE program authorized by the school system may be offered to an overage under-credited student and should meet the unique needs and circumstances of the student. School systems running HSE programs should utilize the [course codes](#) for HSE preparation. A student who is at least 17 years of age may exit high school without violating the compulsory attendance statute (R.S. 17:221) if that student has passed the GED or HiSET®.

Q: Who is able to refer a student to a school system-monitored HSE program?

A: Students aged 16-17 must be referred by a parent/legal guardian. Students aged 18 or older are able to self-select into an HSE program.

Q: Can a student enroll in a school system-monitored HSE program and remain in high school?

A: A student enrolled in a school system-monitored HSE program can and should remain on the school system enrollment roster until the student either earns the HSE credential or exits meeting compulsory attendance requirements.

Q: Is a school system-monitored program student able to pursue an HSE credential and a Jump Start industry-based credential?

A: Yes, a student is able to pursue an HSE credential and a Jump Start credential. The attainment of both will position the student for greater long-term success in a career and life.

Q: What school systems are authorized to offer underage students the HSE exam?

A: The school system monitored HSE programs are identified in the [list of authorized designees for K-12](#).

Q: What is a LCTCS WorkReady U Adult Education Program?

A: An LCTCS WorkReady U Adult Education Program provides adult education and literacy services, workforce preparation skills, workplace literacy, integrated education and training, and English language instruction, including Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) Programs for eligible individuals. The LCTCS WorkReady U Adult Education Program prepares a student for the HSE exam. To locate a program provider in your area, please visit the [LCTCS WorkReady U](#) Adult Education Program and the section titled “Students.”

Q: Who is able to enroll in an LCTCS WorkReady U Adult Education Program, and what is the process to enroll a student?

A: Individuals may enroll if they are 16 years of age and are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law, do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and have not achieved an equivalent level of education or are an English language learner. Students ages 16-17 who are not enrolled in K-12 must have a hardship [age waiver](#) approved and signed by the local superintendent and/or the designee to enroll in an LCTCS WorkReady U adult education program. For a student enrolled in an LCTCS WorkReady U Adult Education Program, the school system should exit the student using code 11 in the Student Information System (SIS).

Q: Upon a student earning a HSE credential, how should a school system indicate credential attainment in Student Information Systems (SIS)?

A: A student earning the HSE credential should be coded 05 in SIS.

Email jenny.moran2@la.gov with questions.