



# OREGON GED<sup>®</sup> PROGRAM

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# High School Graduation Rate in Oregon

- Oregon has the 2<sup>nd</sup> second lowest graduation rate in the country (76%)
  - Shared with Alaska and Arizona
- Second only to New Mexico
- How can we respond?
  - High school equivalency test
  - GED<sup>®</sup> test

# A History of the GED® Test

First series: 1942-1977

Second series: 1978-1987

Third series: 1988-2001

Fourth series: 2002-2013

Fifth series: 2014-present

# Remarkable Milestones

18 million test passers since inception including hundreds of thousands of Oregonians

Notable grads include a U.S. Surgeon General, state governors, members of Congress, state legislators, business leaders, and millions of other individuals who are our neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends

# What the GED® Test Measures

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Measures both High School Equivalency and College and Career Readiness (CCR)

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Measures essential higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills needed for success in jobs and career and college training programs

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Ensures that passers demonstrate the knowledge and skills on par with high school grads

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Standardized and normed on a national sample of high school grads from the class of 2013

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# American Council on Education (ACE) Recommendations for the GED® Test

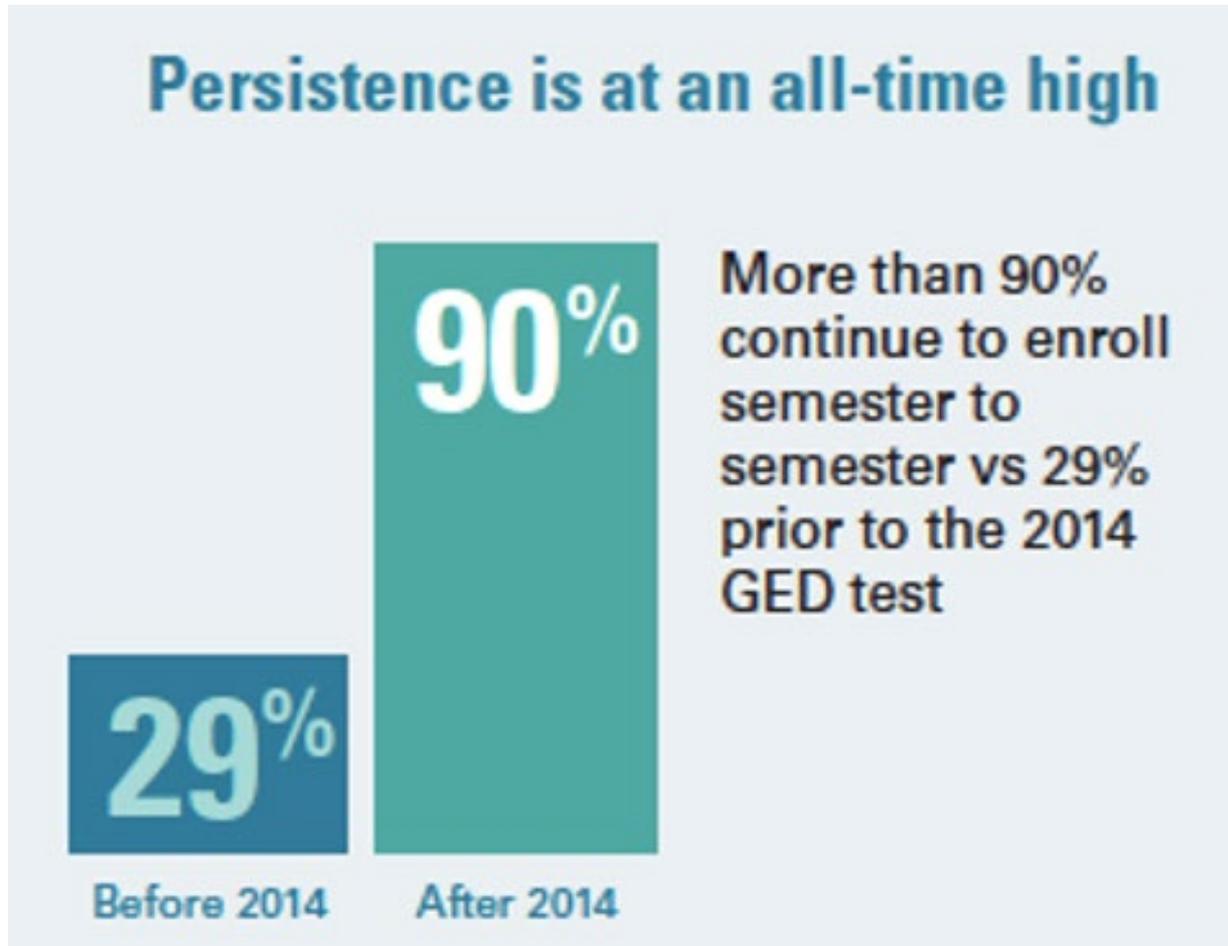
## GED® College Ready

- Score of 165 – 174 on any content test
- Waived from developmental education in content requirements/courses
- Waived from placement testing, and
- Placed directly in credit-bearing courses

## GED® College Ready + Credit

- Score of 175 – 200 on any content test
- Same as CR recommendations, plus
- Up to 10 semester hours of college credit

# GED Grads: Postsecondary Persistence



# Oregon 2014 - Current

During this time frame Oregon's GED<sup>®</sup> test pass rate is 93%. Only 2 states in the U.S. have a higher pass rate and Oregon exceeds each of these 2 states in the number of GED<sup>®</sup> test-takers and passers.

Oregon GED<sup>®</sup> test-takers are achieving the GED<sup>®</sup> College and Career Readiness level at a higher percentage than test-takers nationally.

# GED® Test Process

- Create free account from GED.com
- Prepare for subject area tests
  - Language Arts
  - Science
  - Social Studies
  - Math
- Take practice tests (optional)
- Take subject area tests

# Oregon GED® Test Student Demographics

## Race/Ethnicity

- 55% White
- 20% Hispanic or Latino
- 12% Declined to answer/None
- 3% African American
- 5% Multi-race
- 2% Native American
- 1% Asian
- 1% Hawaiian Pacific Islander

## Gender

- 55% Male
- 39% Female
- 6% Declined to answer

## Average Test Taker Age

- 24 Years Statewide
- 32 Years for Corrections

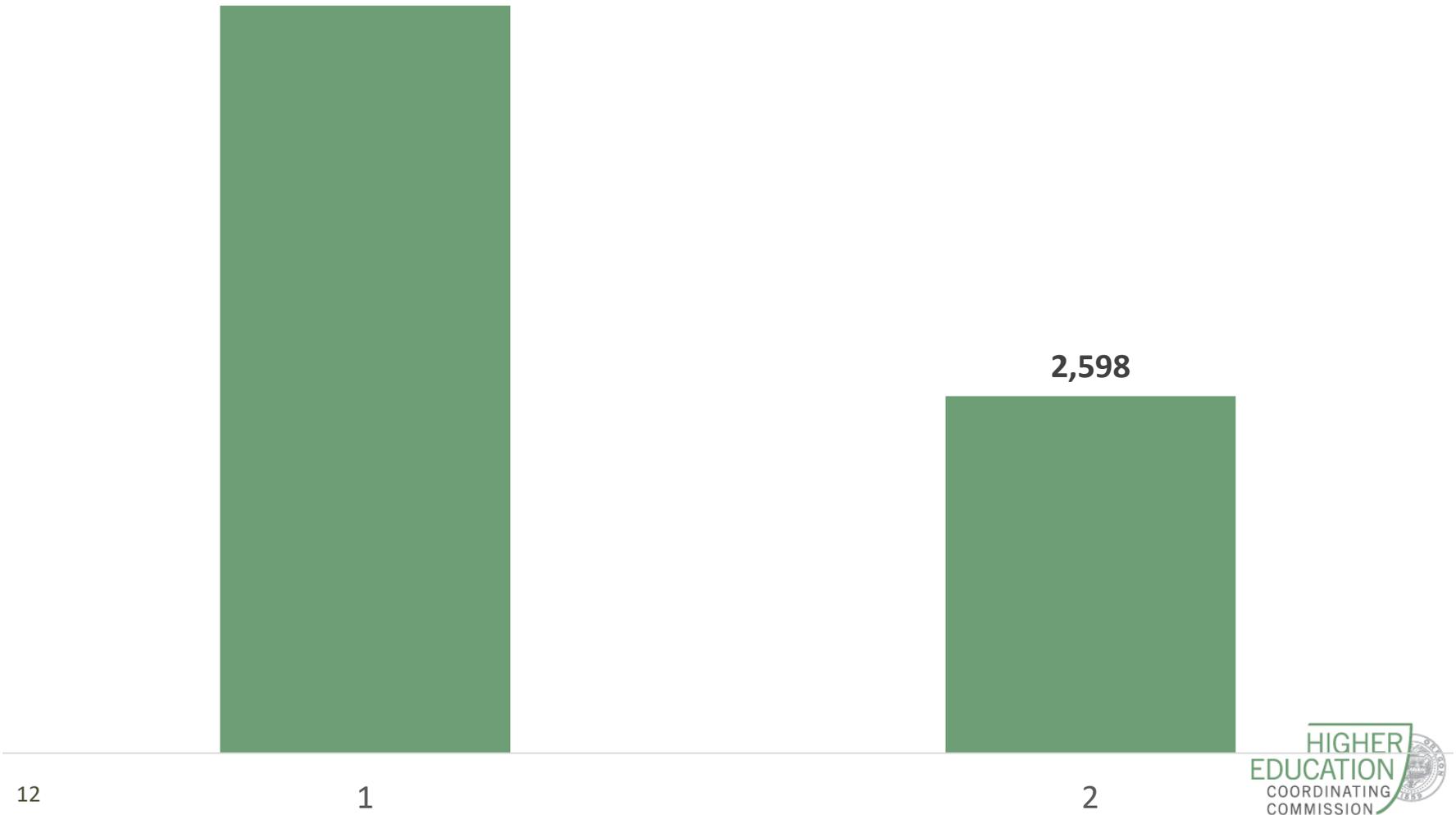
# If GED test-takers were a single person they'd probably be...

A 26-year-old non-white millennial who:

- Completed some of 10th grade, but didn't do that well in school
  - Currently would score around an eight-grade level in Math and Language Arts
  - Dropped out due to family issues
- Has endured serious issues at home from a young age
  - There were times when he felt in physical danger as a child, and times when he went hungry
  - He and his mom had to move often due to job instability and the high cost of rent in his town
- Used to have a part-time job that paid about \$10,00 a year, but is currently looking for a job
- Has a smartphone, and has access to an older computer—but doesn't have one of his own
- Wasn't totally clear on how to start his journey, and is coming to GED after being encouraged by his aunt
  - He went to an adult ed program, but stopped going and is now studying mostly on his own
- Left school about 7 years ago and isn't sure he can pass the test – especially the challenging Math section that he doesn't even remember seeing in school
- He really wants a GED diploma so he can get into a job and enter a short-term college program to earn an industry certification.

# The Impact of COVID on GED® Testing in Oregon

2019 v. 2020 YTD  
GED® Test Credential Comparisons



# The Oregon Situation During COVID

- Availability of in-person GED<sup>®</sup> testing reduced during the pandemic due to stay at home orders, colleges going fully remote, etc.
- Re-opening status of in-person testing centers varies greatly across Oregon.
- Many individuals were wary of in-person testing due to many concerns.
- Students needed an alternative testing option.

# Online Proctored (OP) GED® Test: The Basics

- Test-takers can take the GED test from the comfort of their home or other location that meets the criteria.
- What is it? The GED test is delivered online and is continually monitored by a trained proctor and artificial intelligence.
- To date over 400 individuals have passed via the OP test delivery method.

# Key Developments in Oregon's GED® Program

## Increased partnership with GED Testing Service:

- Online proctored testing
- Accommodations requests more accessible
- Ongoing collaborative professional development for Oregon educators
- Improved student experience via [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com)
- GED graduate outcome data sharing agreement with HECC

## 2015-20 Legislative Funding –Approx. \$6 million investment

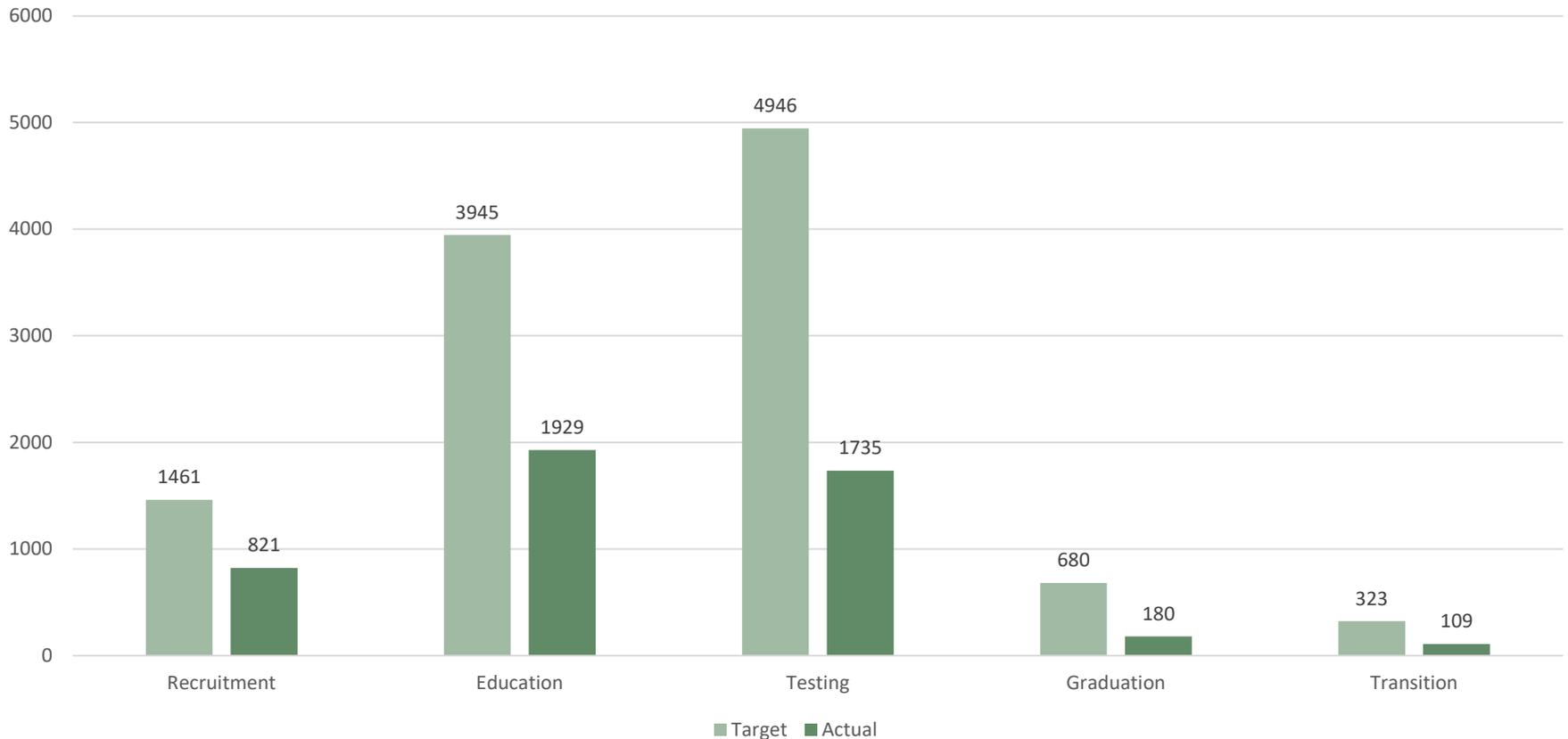
- Grants to local programs for wraparound services to support GED® test students

# High School Equivalency Student Wraparound Services

- Culturally relevant recruiting
- Culturally relevant teaching and training
- Books
- Technology
- Testing fees
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Culturally relevant advising

# Oregon GED® Program Wraparound Grant Mid-project Status

## Student Numbers



# GEDTS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan



- We have selected two new GED Testing Service board members who have strong backgrounds with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- New external partnerships and alliances
- Diverse leadership and representation through recruitment, hiring and development
- Blog highlighting Black, Latino and Indigenous voices in education: <https://ged.com/in-session/>

# GEDTS/Oregon GED® Program Contact Information

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