

State Eligibility Requirements

To take the HiSET exam in California, you must be a California resident or a member of the armed forces assigned to duty in the state of California, have not completed high school and meet the following eligibility requirements:

- **Age:** To take the HiSET exam in California, you must meet any one of the following requirements:
 - You must be 18 years of age or older **or** within 60 days of your 18th birthday (regardless of school enrollment status).
 - You must be within 60 days of when you would have graduated from high school had you remained in school and followed the usual course of study. (May not currently be enrolled in school.)
 - You must be 17 years of age and out of school for at least 60 consecutive days. You must also provide a letter of request from the military, a postsecondary educational institution or a prospective employer.
 - You must be 17 years of age, have accumulated fewer than 100 units of high school, be confined to a state or county or correctional agency, and meet all of the following criteria:
 - You do not have a realistic chance of completing the requirements for a high school diploma.
 - You have adequate academic skills to successfully complete the HiSET exam.
 - You understand the options available regarding acquisition of a high school diploma, the high school equivalency certificate, or the high school proficiency certificate and the requirements, expectations, benefits and limitations of each option.
 - You have sufficient time left to complete the entire HiSET exam; however, if released before the test is completed, you may complete testing at an authorized testing center.
- **Note:** If you pass the HiSET exam at age 17, you will not receive the equivalency certificate until your 18th birthday. Before that time, you will receive a letter of intent stating that the certificate is being held pending your 18th birthday.
- **Residency:** Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 11530, defines “Resident of this State” as a person who either presently lives in the State of California, or who has his/her domicile in California in accordance with the criteria established in Government Code section 244.
- **Test Preparation or Instruction:** You are not required to take HiSET preparation courses before taking the test.
- **Practice Test:** You are not required to take the HiSET practice test before taking the exam.
- **Identification:** Identity and age must be verified by current photo identification at time of scheduling and/or before admittance to the testing room. Acceptable identification includes: driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, an identification card issued by the military, an identification card issued by the U.S. or a foreign government, a passport issued by the U.S. or a foreign government, a tribal identification card or an identification card issued by a postsecondary school. The identification must include your name, birth date, signature, photograph and address.