

## **Questions and Answers about the GED and our BRIDGEWAY program**

### **What is a GED?**

The GED was originally an acronym for the Tests of General Educational Development, but since 2011 we just use the term GED. The GED test is a series of four subject exams a person can take to demonstrate their high school academic knowledge. **The new term used is High School Equivalency (HSE) Tests.**

Either way, or whatever you choose to call it, California has approved the use of two high school equivalency tests (GED® and HiSET®) for students 18 years old and older, and 17 years old in some instances for the purpose of receiving a California High School Equivalency Certificate.

**Is the GED equivalent to a high school diploma? Yes!**

**If an employer asks me if I have a high school diploma can I say yes? Yes!**

**Can I go to college if I have a GED? Yes!**

As a matter of fact, many students attend community college concurrently while completing their GED.

**Is there a cost associated with each exam?**

Yes, the cost is \$41 per exam. There are four.

**How do students prepare and what are the expectations and requirements?**

Eligible students are enrolled in our Bridgeway program. This is our high school GED program that operates as a daily school of attendance under LaPaloma High School, but is physically located on the Community Education Center campus under the guidance of Independence High School and the Director. Unfortunately, we do not offer transportation.

Students are required to attend the program five days a week, for 2 ½ hours daily. Currently, our class is from 9:30am -12:00pm. Students who are employed may request a four day schedule.

Our self-contained educational environment focuses on basic necessary academics in preparation for each of the four required exams.

**Is there homework in the program? No!**

**Do students earn credits while in the program? No.**

Again, students are working towards passing the GED (all four exams).

The teacher will notify and encourage students to take an exam when prepared. Students are discouraged to take an exam until the teacher feels they are fully prepared.

The GED test is a series of four subject tests:

- Mathematical Reasoning (Math)
- Reasoning Through Language Arts (English)
- Social Studies (History)
- Science

In order to earn a California High School Equivalency Certificate students must pass all four subject tests with a score of 145 or better.

**Is it true I may be able to earn college credits for scores of 175 or higher? Yes!**

Please see a college counselor to determine what type of credits you will receive.

**When can a student take the first GED exam?**

Once prepared, a student is eligible to take their first exam once they are within two months of their 18th birthday. Exams are taken on our campus through Adult Education (currently on Wednesday and Friday).

**How fast can I take the exams?**

Usually, students take one exam at a time, but if prepared, they may take two per testing day; essentially taking and completing all 4 exams in one week. Again, this is not typical but can be accomplished.

Once all exams have been passed, the student is exited from the program and the state will issue a California High School Equivalency Certificate.

**Can I participate in the IHS graduation commencement? Yes!**

As long as all exams have been successfully

passed prior to commencement. We highly encourage students to participate as you get only one real chance to walk the high school stage. We do not make any distinctions between earning a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate.

**Who is eligible for Bridgeway?**

LUHSD students ages 17 and older who will be 18 years old no later than the last day of their senior year. Exceptions may be made based on individual situations.

Unfortunately, the GED is not an offer of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and therefore students with a current IEP are not eligible. For more details, please contact your student's case manager.

**Why do students choose Bridgeway?**

Students who enroll in our Bridgeway/GED program do so for many reasons:

- Needing to work to help support self or family
- Current school site challenges
  - ⇒ too large and overwhelming
  - ⇒ extremely credit deficient
  - ⇒ academic skills but low motivation
- Mental or physical health challenges

**How do students enroll?**

A transfer request is made through a student's current school. The application process starts with a conversation between the student, parent and the student's current school counselor. The completed transfer application is forwarded to La Paloma High School for processing. La Paloma High School will collaborate with Independence High School and contact students and families with next steps. All decisions made will be in the best interest of the student.

**Considering the GED but not sure if you could pass it?**

We can arrange for students to take a pre-GED test (prior to applying to our program) to determine the probability of passing the test. Please contact your school counselor and ask that they contact Independence High School administration for details.

# BRIDGEWAY Program

## Highlights...

Mindfulness

Small Group  
&

One-to-One Instruction

Teaching to the Test

Counseling Services

College/Career Planning

Outdoor Gardens

Tobacco Use Prevention Program

Community Volunteer Program

Poetry Out Loud

Vocational Work Experience

And Much More.....

**Community Education Center  
929 Second Street  
Brentwood, California 94513  
(925) 634-2589**

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## Bridgeway Program (High School GED)



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### Program Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

*Is the GED an  
option for me?*

Re-introducing...

**The  
BRIDGEWAY  
program**



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