



How High School Equivalency Credentials Open Doors and Foster Opportunities?

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Today's Agenda

- What is a High School Equivalency Diploma?
- Understanding the HiSET Exam
- HiSET Outcomes & Impact
- The Value of HSE Graduates in the Workforce
- How HiSET Enhances Job Readiness and Workforce Development

What is a High School Equivalency Diploma?



Understanding the High School Equivalency Diploma

- The High School Equivalency Diploma serves as an alternative to a traditional high school diploma.
 - In 2022, the Governor of Illinois signed a bill granting a State of Illinois High School Diploma to individuals who have completed the HiSET or GED.
 - It plays a pivotal role in creating opportunities, validating essential skills, and empowering individuals to achieve their educational and career aspirations.
- HiSET is one of the recognized options for High School Diploma in Illinois.

Understanding the HiSET Exam



What is the HiSET?

- A HSE test introduced in 2014 as an alternative to the GED®
- Developed by ETS and now administered by PSI
- The purpose of the HiSET is to certify a test taker's attainment of academic knowledge and skills equivalent to those of a HS graduate
- HiSET scores identify if test takers perform at a level consistent with HSE or college & career readiness

State Approvals and Recognition

Where is the HiSET Accepted?

Adopted in 30 states as a recognized HSE exam, our state partner agencies represent:

- Departments of education, labor, workforce and commerce
- Community and technical college systems
- Departments of corrections – state and local






State issues the official HSE credential (diploma/certificate and transcript)

HSE credentials are accepted by:

- Postsecondary institutions and employers
- US Department of Education and US Military
- Federal and state government programs

Overview of the HiSET Exam



Exam Formats & Modalities				
Mathematics 	Science 	Social Studies 	ELA-Reading 	ELA-Writing 
55 questions	60 questions	60 questions	50 questions	61 questions
100% multiple choice	100% multiple choice	100% multiple choice	100% multiple choice	60 multiple choice 1 essay
90 minutes	80 minutes	70 minutes	65 minutes English 80 minutes Spanish	120 minutes
➤ Available in paper-based and computer-based formats	➤ Offered in English and Spanish	➤ Take the test in an official HiSET test center or online proctored	➤ Testing accommodations available upon approval	



High School Equivalency Passing Scores



- Subtests scored on a **20-point** scale
- Score at least **8 out of 20** on each subtest
 - Writing Subtest – Two parts:
 - Multiple-choice Questions (**14** possible points)
 - Essay (**6** possible points)
 - Writing subtest essay must earn at least **2**
- Achieve a total score of at least **45**
 - Must score higher than the minimum passing on at least one subtest

College and Career Readiness Scores

- Scored on a **20-point** scale
- Test takers scoring at **15** and above
 - Writing subtest essay must earn at least **4**

HiSET Illinois Testing Options and Fees

Paper Test

Computer Test

Test @ Home

Total fees per paper subtest

\$23

Total expected fees to complete the HiSET assuming no
retake attempts and completion in a single calendar
year:

\$115

Subtest fee breakdown:

Test Fee: \$15

Test Center Fee: \$8

State Admin Fee: \$0

Test Location: Test Center

HiSET Illinois Testing Options and Fees

Paper Test

Computer Test

Test @ Home

Total fees per Test @ Home subtest

\$32.50

Total expected fees to complete the HiSET assuming no retake attempts and completion in a single calendar year:

\$162.50

Subtest fee breakdown:

Test Fee: \$15

Remote Proctor Fee: \$17.50

State Admin Fee: \$0

Test Location: Offsite, remote proctored.

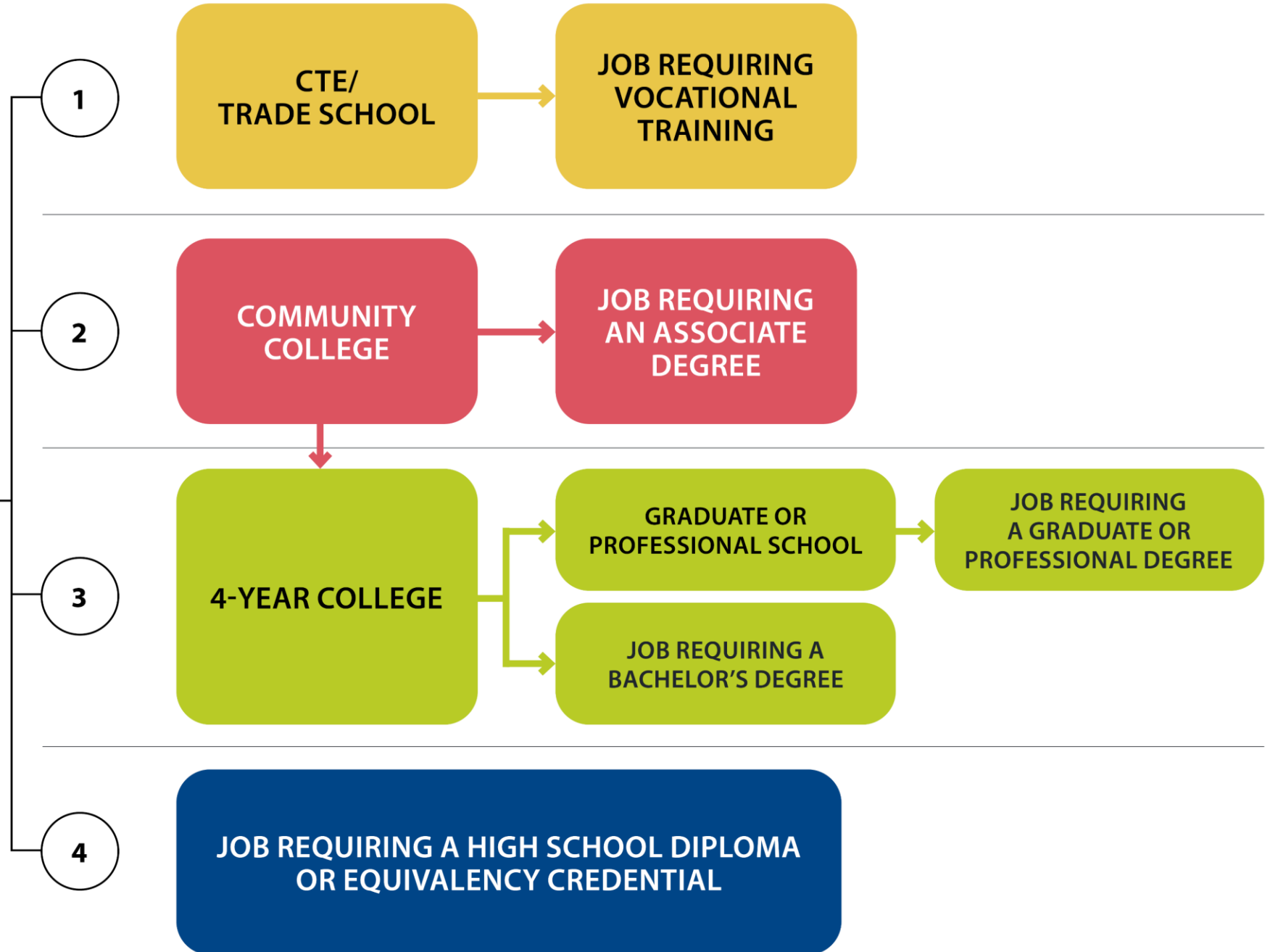
System requirements and test environment guidelines must be met.

HiSET Outcomes & Impact

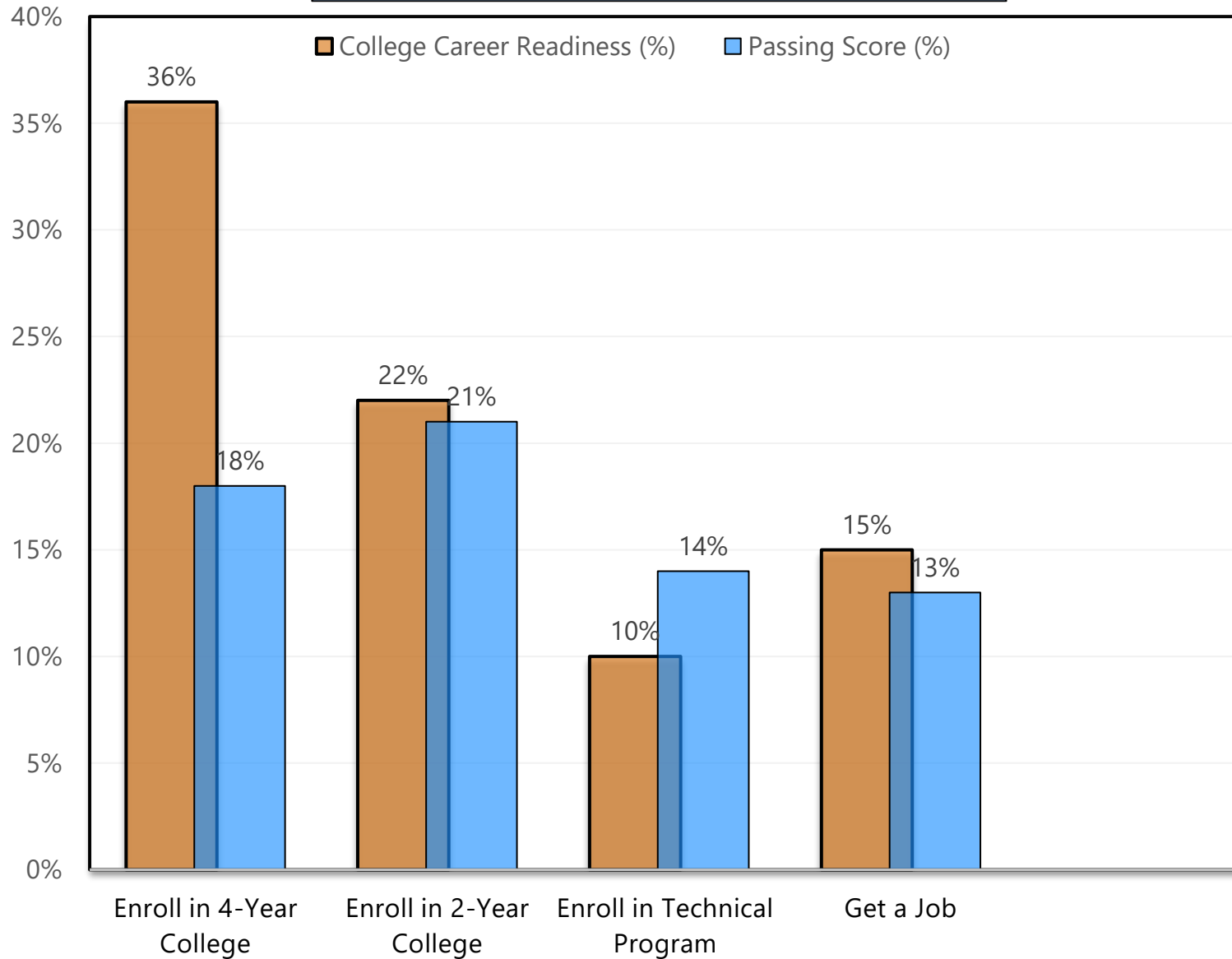




Educational and Career Pathways for Passers of the HiSET Battery



Post-HiSET Goals by Score Type



- Test takers who achieved the CCR score showed a stronger preference for pursuing the 4-year college path.
- Test takers who achieved a passing score showed a greater preference for pursuing technical programs.

HiSET: Study Outcomes



The employment rate among HiSET passers, including those not enrolled in post-secondary education, rose from 35% in Year 1 to 51% in Year 3.



The percentage of HiSET passers relying on public assistance, such as SNAP or food stamps, declined from 26.4% before passing the HiSET to 19.1% two years afterward. This post-HiSET rate was slightly below the U.S. national average of 21.3%.



Individuals employed in hourly-wage jobs before and after passing the HiSET battery reported an average wage increase of 12% after one year, 25% after two years, and 36% after three years.



Among participants in our study, individuals with higher HiSET scores demonstrated stronger academic performance in college. The average college GPA for those who passed the HiSET battery was 3.34.

The Value of HSE Graduates in the Workforce





HSE Graduates: Reliable, Motivated, and Resilient

HiSET®

Determination and Resilience – HSE graduates have overcome significant challenges, showcasing their perseverance and dedication to achieving their goals.

Strong Work Ethic and Time Management – Balancing work, family, and education has equipped HSE graduates with exceptional adaptability and a hardworking mindset.

Workforce Development and Retention – Hiring HSE graduates supports employee loyalty and reduces turnover, contributing to a stronger workforce.

Lifelong Learners – With a commitment to ongoing education and professional growth, HSE graduates are valuable assets for long-term success in any organization.

HSE Graduates: Skilled and Ready to Succeed *HiSET*[®]

Foundational Knowledge

- Adult education and HSE programs focus on developing core skills in math, reading, writing, and problem-solving—critical abilities for success in today's workforce.

Career & Technical Training

- HSE graduates are equipped to pursue industry certifications in areas like healthcare, sales, IT, manufacturing, and skilled trades.

HSE Career Area

Healthcare-Focused Training

Certified Nursing Assistant(CAN)

Medical Assistant (MA)

Phlebotomy Technician

Patient Care Technician (PCT)

Skilled Trades and Industrial Certifications

Carpentry

Electrical

Plumbing

HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning)

Welding

Manufacturing & Quality Control

Heavy Equipment Certifications

Financial Services and Real Estate

Insurance

Financial Planning

Real Estate

Technology and Information Systems

IT Support Specialists

Help Desk Technicians

Network Administrators

HSE Graduates Outcomes



In Illinois, students who has a High School Diploma experienced an average wage increase of \$6,215 per student.



In Indiana, during the 2023-2024 program year, students who participated in an adult education program experienced an average wage increase of \$5,000 per student.



Students in New Mexico who enrolled in an adult education program achieved an average wage increase of \$6,500.

How HiSET Enhances Job Readiness and Workforce Development



HiSET: Empowering Workforce Readiness and Opportunity

ENHANCING WORKFORCE ACCESS

HiSET provides a valuable credential that meets the high school equivalency requirement for many job centers, enabling individuals without a diploma to access more employment opportunities and advance their careers.

BUILDING WORKFORCE READINESS



HiSET's focus on core subjects like Math, Science, and Language Arts equips

PATHWAY TO CAREERS AND EDUCATION

HiSET serves as a critical first step for individuals pursuing specialized career pathways or further education, qualifying them for vocational training, community colleges, apprenticeships, and certification.



EXPANDING REPRESENTATION IN IN WORKFORCE

HiSET expands workforce diversity by providing a flexible pathway for adult learners, immigrants, and underserved groups, enabling them to earn credentials and re-enter the workforce, regardless of their background or prior education.



Ask Us Anything

HiSET[®]



Social Media

We help promote adult education programs, HSE graduates, and HSE events through our social media.



HiSETexam



HiSET



HiSETexam



HiSET



HiSETexam

Join us at the

HiSET[®]

**2025 Regional
Roadshows**



📍 **First Stop: Cardinals Busch Stadium, St. Louis, MO, May 29 - 30, 2025** – Join us at the home of the St. Louis Cardinals for two days of collaboration, networking, and insights into the HiSET program

📍 **Second Stop: Boston University, Boston, MA, October 6 – 7, 2025** – Stay tuned for event details including dates, location, and registration information coming soon

Follow Up Questions

Send any follow up questions to:

- hisetpartners@psionline.com or
- marquette.vital@psionline.com

Thank you
for listening.

Learn more at hiset.org