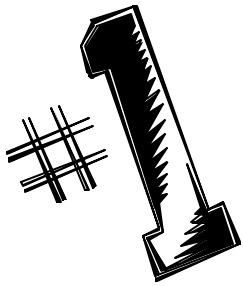


Lit Scan

Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

Volume 5 ♦ Number 2

April 28, 2001



Colorado Sets National Standard for Success, 1990-2000

The latest preliminary statistics from the national GED (General Education Development) Testing Service indicate that Colorado's GED testing centers were the most successful in the nation in 2000. In 2000, 9,780 Coloradans completed the GED Tests and 9,688 passed. That is a near-perfect 99.1 percent success rate.

What explains this exemplary performance? Coloradans who did not complete high school came to GED testing centers only marginally better prepared than their counterparts nationwide. For Colorado, the highest grade completed by GED students averaged 10.1. For the nation, the average was 9.9.

So what is the difference? Colorado GED students take the GED tests at an earlier age. In Colorado, 41 percent of GED graduates were between ages 16 and 18 when they took the tests. Nationally, this age group represented only 30 percent of tested students. So, Colorado's GED efforts reach 25 percent more students while they are still in this age group.

HIGHLIGHT

Colorado GED testing centers lead the nation with a 99.1 percent success rate. Almost every student who completes the tests passes.



CARE
Center for At-Risk Education coe

Colorado Literacy Research Initiative (CLRI)
CARE—Adult Education & Family Literacy
201 East Colfax Avenue ♦ Denver, Colorado 80203-1799
(303) 866-6737 ♦ fax (303) 866-6940
website www.coloradoliteracy.net/clri ♦ © 2001



Colorado has a long and continuing track record of preparing students for the GED Tests effectively. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of GED credentials issued by the state increased by 29.4 percent. During the same interval, the national increase in the number of credentials issued was only 15.8 percent. Thus, during the past decade, Colorado increased its output of GED graduates by almost double the national percentage.

GED advocates in Colorado are not resting on their laurels. While the percentage increase in credentials issued dropped by 5.9 percent nationally between 1999 and 2000, this figure increased by 5.5 percent for Colorado.

Major national developments in GED testing will take effect beginning in 2002. The tests will continue to cover the core academic areas of language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics. The major changes relate to the impact of welfare-to-work legislation and the increased emphasis on academic standards in K-12 education. While the changes ahead are dramatic ones, Colorado's superlative record as a national leader suggests that the state's GED programs are more than equal to the challenge.



For more information about GED testing in Colorado, visit the Colorado Department of Education website's GED Information page at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/GEDindex.htm> or call Mary Willoughby, CDE's GED Consultant, at 303-866-6611.

SOURCES

- The GED Tests: What's New for 2002?: A General Education Development Testing Service Fact Sheet. Available at: <http://www.gedtest.org> .
- 2000 GED Annual Statistical Report. Draft tables 1-10.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about this study or other projects of the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative, contact: Keith Curry Lance, Colorado Department of Education, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 309, Denver, CO 80203-1799, (303) 866-6737, fax (303) 866-6940, e-mail keithlance@earthlink.net