



# Show-Me

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Literacy.....

## Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Update

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**COMPUTER-BASED TESTING (CBT) UPDATE**  
Debi Faucette, Senior Director of Field Outreach

The mission of the "Show-Me Literacy Newsletter is to provide professional information-sharing, resources and news about adult education and literacy.

## Session Overview

- Current Challenges
- CBT Overview: What It Is and Why Now
- CBT Phase 1: Usability and Comparability Study
- CBT Phase 2: Adding CBT to the GED Testing Program
- Testing Center Overview
- Open Discussion

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## The GED Reality: 2010's BIG Gap



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## GED Testing: Today's Challenges

- Paper-based process is labor-intensive
- Multiple approaches to test delivery, scoring, data management, and reporting--making it difficult to achieve economies of scale
- Limited access (proximity, testing center hours, and scheduling)
- Time to receive credential after the exam
- Lack of flexibility in making changes to the exam

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## GED Testing: Today's Challenges (cont.)

- Current testing program consumes significant jurisdictional resources
  - People
  - Money
  - Time
- Maintaining test security requires inordinate amounts of resources
- Technology absent from key processes that could be automated

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## Today's Charge

We need to serve **more** adult learners with a **better** support, assessment, and transition system.

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## Why Computer-Based Testing (CBT)?

- Provides adult learners with:
  - Rapid turnaround of test results
  - Greater choices on when and where to take the tests
  - Ease of registration
  - Increased test security
- Part of GED Testing Service's commitment to serving more test-takers, and providing a better, more reliable testing experience.

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## Benefits of CBT

- Increase access for adult learners to test on demand
- Operational improvements:
  - Faster score reporting, better data management and reporting tools
  - Flexible registration and payment options
- Improve standardized processes for access to and delivery of services like accommodations
- Increase exam security



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## Why Now?

- Test-takers need increased access
  - Only testing 2% of eligible population
  - No marked increase in testing over past 8 years
- National & local governments requiring more efficient processes
- Well-traveled road with many successful examples
- **Prepares the way for the new GED assessment system**



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## What CBT Is...and Is Not

- What CBT is...
  - Standardized mode of test delivery that includes technology-based tools for data management, reporting and enhanced security procedures
- What CBT is not...
  - An automated system that completely replaces human interaction or judgment
  - Online testing



## What's In It For Me?

- Help more adult learners and test-takers with an improved system
- Partner with GED Testing Service on a major national initiative
- Bring local expertise to discussion on solutions for access, services, and advocacy for adult learners
- Serve more adult learners





# CBT Phase 1: Usability Study & Comparability Study



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## Results

- Usability Study
  - Most issues raised were easily addressed with clarification of instructions or other slight changes
  - Majority of multiple choice items were very “usable”
- Comparability Study
  - Conducted to determine whether the CBT scores are comparable to the paper-based testing (PBT) scores in measuring a test-taker’s knowledge, skills, and abilities
  - Analyses have indicated a high degree of comparability between the two delivery modes

**> CBT Tutorial available at GED Testing Service Booth (#12)**



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## Results

As a result of the studies, GED Testing Service is confident in moving forward with operational CBT as a complement to existing PBT

  
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## **CBT Phase 2:**

### **Adding CBT to the GED Testing Program**

  
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## CBT Phase 2: Adding CBT to the GED Testing Program

- Partnering with Pearson VUE, expert in CBT systems
- Cohort 1 Update
  - Implementation Status
  - Lessons learned
- Adjustments to cohort structure and implementation
  - Education & planning will occur with all jurisdictions before July 2011
  - New process allows more flexibility, scheduling based on readiness
  - Addition of CBT must occur by end of 2013



## Role of a CBT Test Center

- Offer access to GED exams (and globally recognized exams)
- Easy-to-use software
- Schedule testing hours as needed
- Utilize flexible registration options

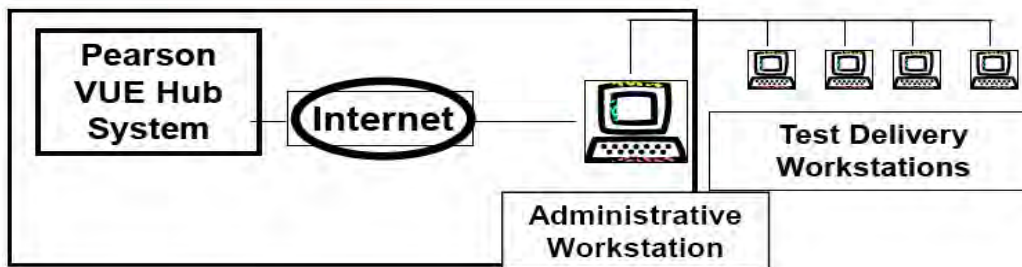


## Test Center Facility Requirements

- Distraction-free, secure area conducive to testing
- Computers for test delivery workstations, a server and test administrator/proctor workstation
- Separate check-in area, with work space for test administrator and seating for candidates waiting
- Lockable storage for test candidate belongings
- Test administrator/proctor (that is certified by Pearson VUE) to check in candidates and provide adequate monitoring during exam delivery
- **Learn more > [www.PearsonVUE.com/PVTC](http://www.PearsonVUE.com/PVTC)**



## Test Center Applications (Pearson VUE Set Up)



Computer hardware:

- Server or additional workstation – for shared file storage
- Administrator workstation: Admit candidates for exams
- Test delivery workstation: Deliver exams

Administrative Workstation connects to the Pearson VUE Hub via the Internet



## ▶ CBT Test Administrator (Examiner) Role

- Ensure secure and appropriate testing environment
- Proctor candidates during exam delivery
- Utilize Pearson VUE applications
  - Site Manager: manage site
  - Delivery Manager: launch exams
  - Registration Manager: register candidates
- Verify candidate identification
- Capture photos and digital signatures as needed
- Report incidents affecting candidates' performance



## ▶ Next Steps in CBT Phase 2

- Education & planning program summer 2011
- Scheduling jurisdictions based on readiness
- Implementation in all jurisdictions by end of 2013



## » How We Will Work with You

- Today...a first step on the road to CBT
- Communication—ongoing
  - Website: [www.GEDcbt.org](http://www.GEDcbt.org)
  - eNewsletter: [www.GEDtest.org/TheCommunity](http://www.GEDtest.org/TheCommunity)
- Education & planning support in summer 2011
- Building processes and procedures that reflect what we've learned from you

## » Discussion


What questions would you like answered?

[www.GEDcbt.org](http://www.GEDcbt.org)

 **Thank You****Debi K. Faucette**

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