

NO. 99.011

DATE: March 17, 1999

TO: Parent Center Chief GED Examiners, Alternate Examiners,
ABE Coordinators

FROM: Bureau of Community Colleges

SUBJECT: Iowa GED Statistical Report for Calendar Year 1998
(January 1, 1998 - December 31, 1998)

INTRODUCTION

The following information summarizes the major statistical trends relative to Iowa's GED testing program for calendar year 1998 (N=7,871).

STATISTICAL TRENDS

The following data summarizes some of the significant trends.

- 95 percent passed by Iowa state standards.
- 37 percent were in the process of testing.
- The average highest grade completed for Iowa's GED candidates is 10.0, as opposed to a national average of 9.9.
- The average age of Iowa's GED candidates is 24.7, as opposed to a national average of 24.3.

The following trends are based on total number of GED candidates tested during calendar year 1998, (N=5,448):

- 94 percent were direct referrals for GED testing from ABE/GED instructional classes.
- 83 percent indicated the two main reasons for taking the GED test were education/training and personal satisfaction: (63 percent education/training; 20 percent self satisfaction).
- 62 percent were between the ages of 18-29 (27 percent were between ages 18-19; 35 percent were between ages 20-29).
- 57 percent were male and 43 percent were female.

- 81 percent were majority and 19 percent were minority populations. [The 19 percent minority figure for GED candidates compares to an overall 5 percent minority population figure for Iowa's adult population age 16+.]
- 81 percent of diplomas issued for males were between ages 16-30, as opposed to 77 percent for females for the same age cohort.
- 19 percent of diplomas issued for males were between ages 31-60 as opposed to 22 percent for females for the same age cohort.

SUMMARY

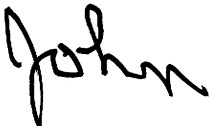
The GED testing program in Iowa has traditionally sustained a 89-92 percent GED candidates' pass rate. Iowa has always ranked in the top ten states for GED candidates' pass rate. This high pass rate is an excellent testimony to the effectiveness of Iowa's ABE/GED instructional and GED testing delivery system. Iowa's high pass rate is due, to a large extent, to the fact that 94 percent of Iowa's GED candidates are direct referrals from the ABE/GED instructional component.

A comparison of total numbers of GED candidates tested in Iowa for calendar years 1980-1998 indicated the following trends:

- Historically, the total number of GED candidates tested peaked in calendar year 1981 (N=10,753). The volume consistently dropped through calendar year 1988. From 1989 through 1998, the volume has increased, on average between 2 and 3 percentage points annually.
- The overall pass rate was 95 percent. The overall state benchmark is a 92-95 percent pass rate.
- The percentage of candidates in the process of testing remained constant at 37 percent. This same percentage has held constant over the last several years.
- The number of Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas issued in calendar year 1998 increased 1.32 percent over calendar year 1997.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

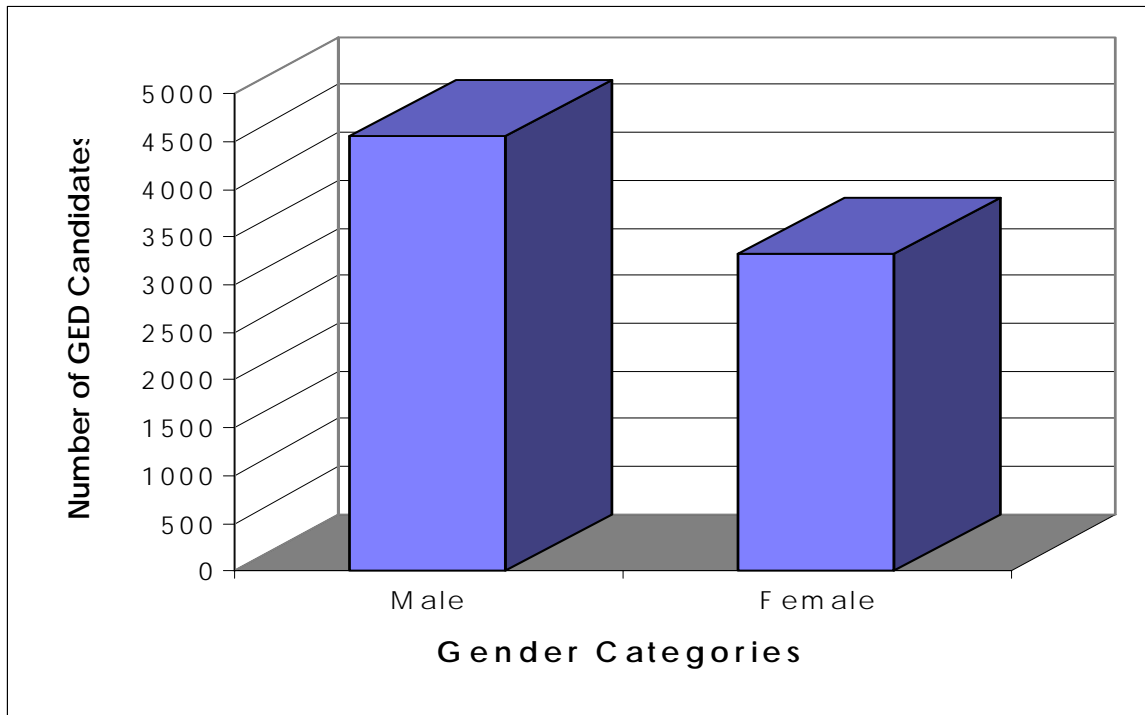


John Hartwig
Iowa State GED Administrator
Division of Community Colleges & Workforce Preparation

Enclosures

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Gender Category for Calendar Year 1998

Graph 1

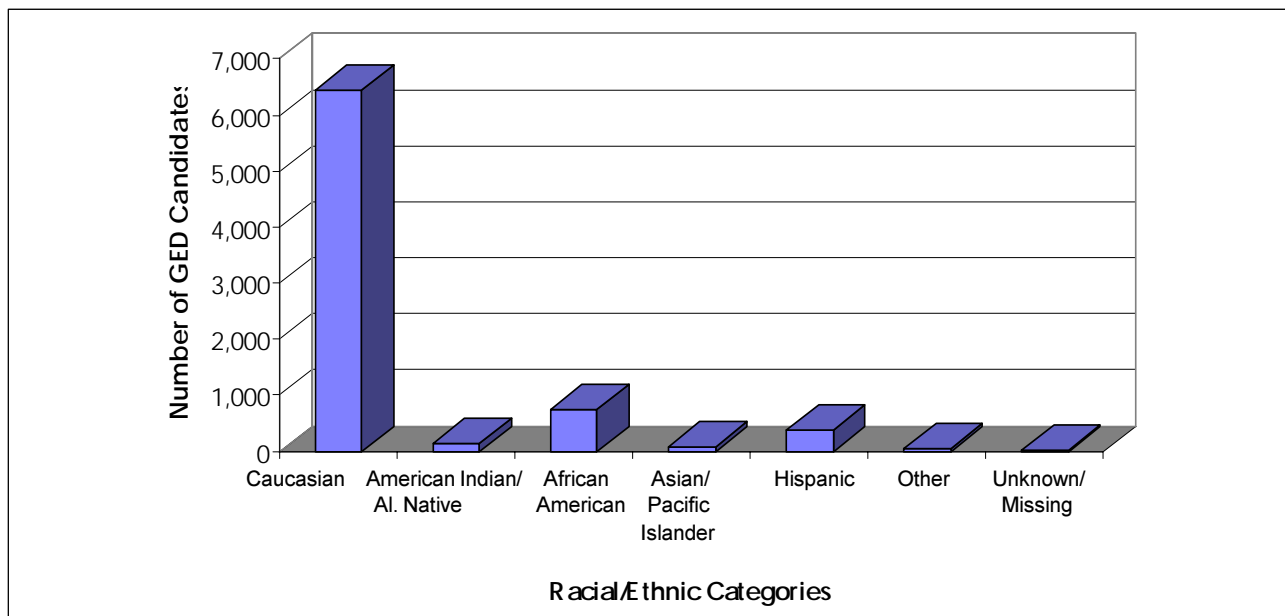


Gender Category	N	Percent
Male	4,552	57.83
Female	3,319	42.17
	<u>7,871</u>	<u>100.00</u>

Source: 1998 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Racial/Ethnic Category for Calendar Year 1998

Graph 2

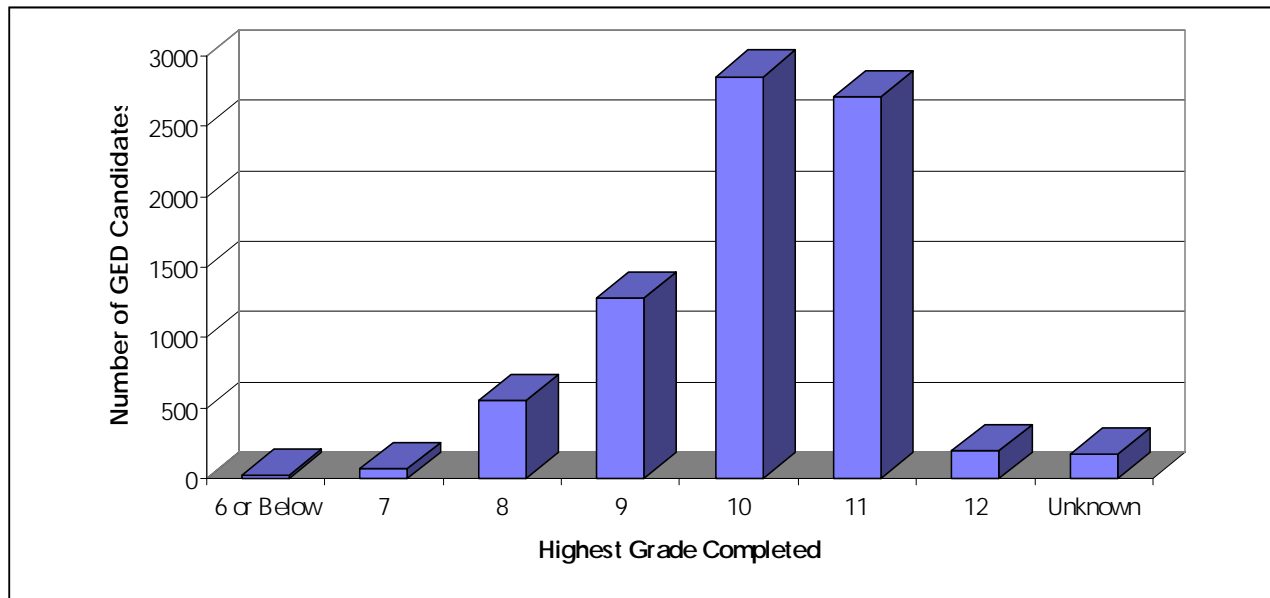


Racial Ethnic Category	N	Percent
Caucasian	6,448	81.92
Amer. Indian/Al. Native	126	1.60
African American	754	9.57
Asian/Pacific Islander	70	.88
Hispanic	386	4.90
Other	58	.73
Unknown/Missing	29	.36
Total	7,871	100.00

81% were majority and 19% were minority. The 19% minority figure for GED candidates compares to an overall 5% minority population figure for Iowa's adult population according to 1990 census figures.

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Highest Grade Completed for Calendar Year 1998

Graph 3



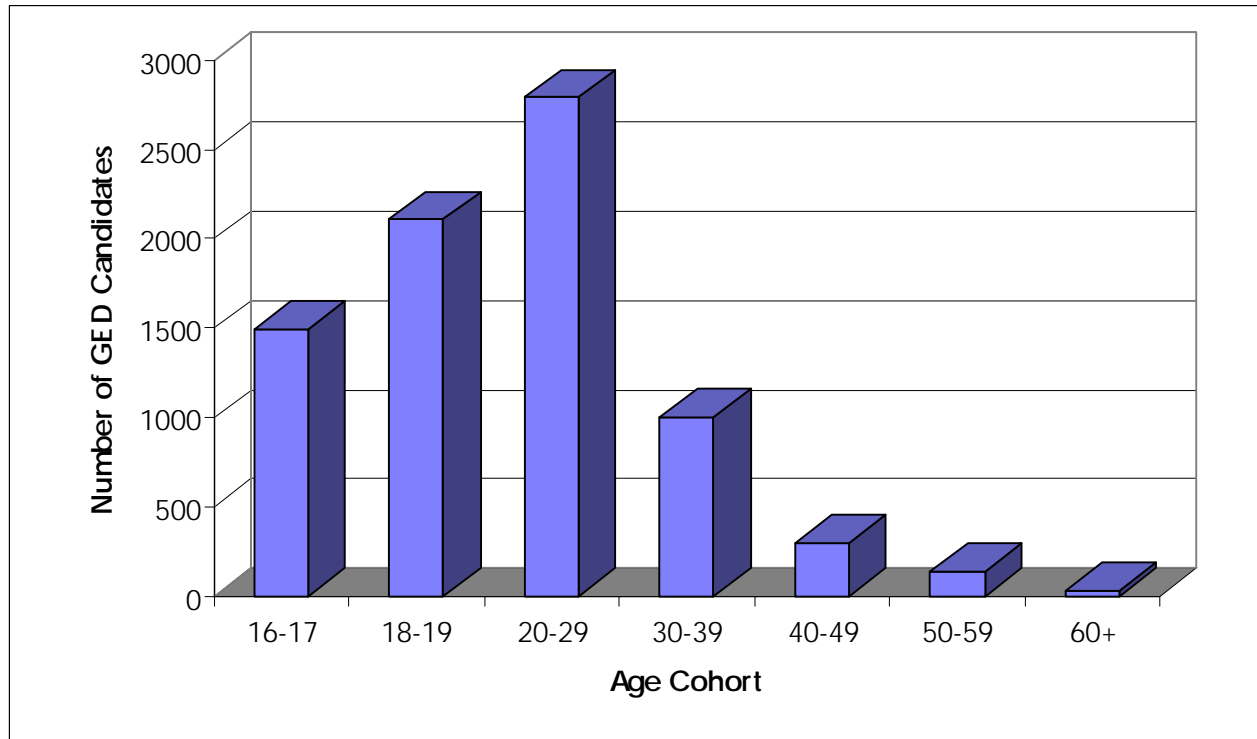
Highest Grade Level Completed	N	Percent
6 or Below	27	.34
7	71	.90
8	558	7.08
9	1,284	16.31
10	2,856	36.28
11	2,709	34.41
12	195	2.47
Unknown/Missing	<u>171</u>	<u>2.17</u>
Total	7,871	100.00

Highest average grade completed is 10.0

Source: 1998 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Age Cohorts for Calendar Year 1998

Graph 4



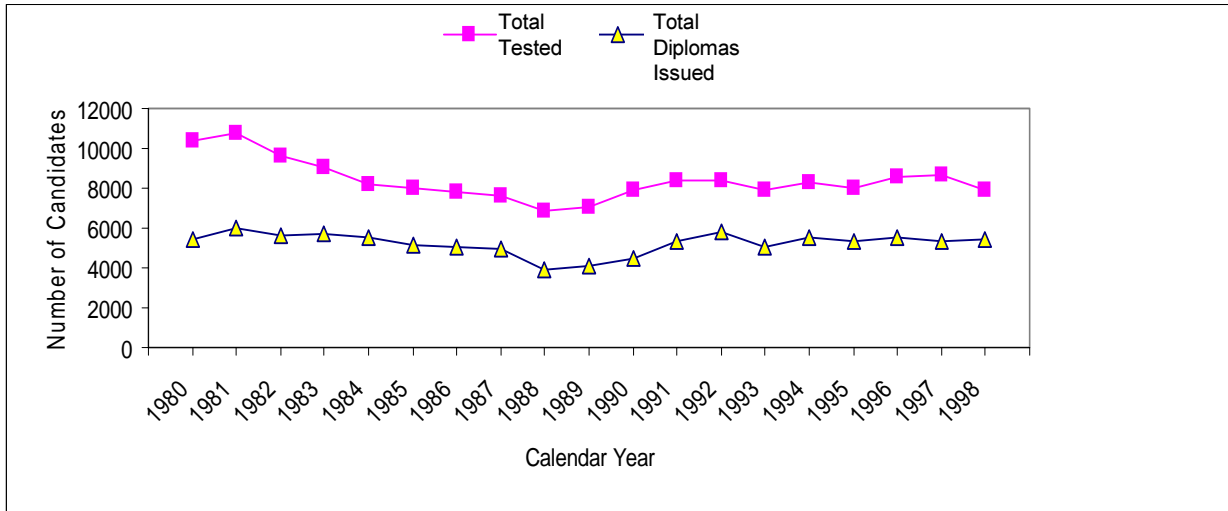
Age Cohort	N	Percent
16-17	1,495	18.99
18-19	2,106	26.76
20-29	2,788	35.42
30-39	1,006	12.78
40-49	303	3.85
50-59	139	1.77
60+	34	.43
Total	7,871	100.00

Average age is 24.7

Source: 1998 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education

A Comparison of:
 (1) Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested,
 (2) Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High
 School Equivalency Diploma
 from Calendar Years 1980-1998

Graph 5

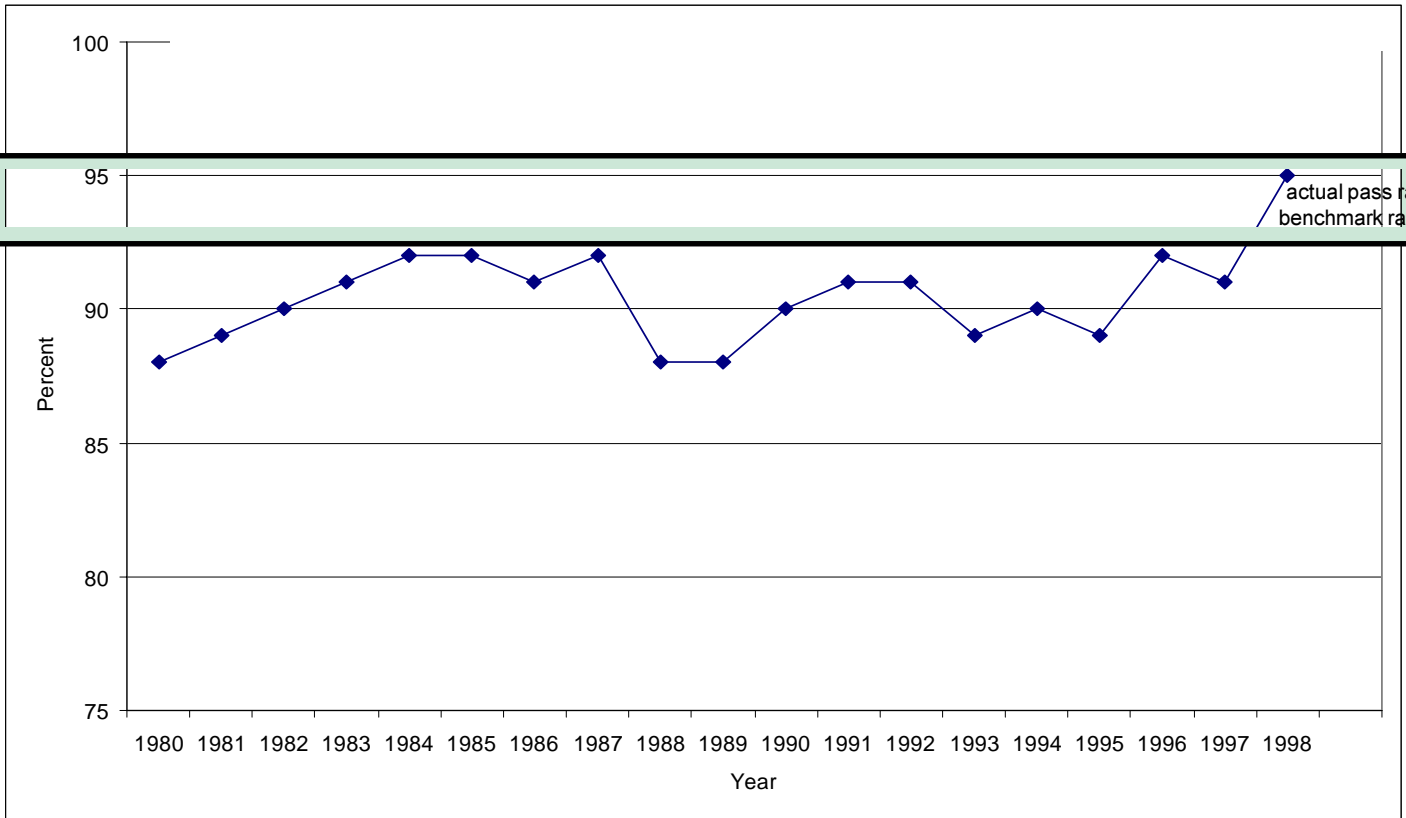


Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1980	10,342	5,452
1981	10,753	6,024
1982	9,635	5,602
1983	9,035	5,710
1984	8,147	5,531
1985	8,003	5,106
1986	7,832	5,036
1987	7,650	4,957
1988	6,902	3,858
1989	7,027	4,126
1990	7,909	4,497
1991	8,373	5,305
1992	8,348	5,764
1993	7,917	5,063
1994	8,277	5,525
1995	8,044	5,372
1996	8,566	5,525
1997	8,666	5,377
1998	7,871	5,448

Source: 1980-1998 GED Annual Statistical Reports and 1980-1998 GED Diploma Recipient Reports:
 Iowa Department of Education

Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent: 1980-1998

Graph 6



The 95% pass rate meets the accountability benchmark percentage range of 92-95% pass rate for Iowa's GED testing program.
The national average pass rate is 68.6%

Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)	Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
1980	88	1990	90
1981	89	1991	91
1982	90	1992	91
1983	91	1993	89
1984	92	1994	90
1985	92	1995	89
1986	91	1996	92
1987	92	1997	91
1988	88	1998	95
1989	88		

Source: 1980-1998 GED Annual Statistical Report: Iowa Department of Education