



# GED CONNECTIONS

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Welcome to the first issue of *GED Connections*. This newsletter has been developed by the ASE/GED/VPI Committee of the Adult Education and Literacy Practitioners' Task Force. This first issue will provide you with an overview of information on the GED 2002 and some special programs that can provide services to you. Future issues will focus on the five subject areas of the GED 2002 Tests.

We hope you enjoy this issue and if you have any comments or questions, please contact:

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## WELCOME TO GED CONNECTIONS

Welcome to *GED Connections*. This newsletter has been developed to provide you, the GED teacher or administrator, with information that you can use as you prepare for GED 2002. This is the first of six issues that will be produced this year by GED practitioners from around the state.

### GED 2002 Updates

Each issue will feature updates from the American Council on Education's GED Testing Service, as well as the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Development. These updates will provide you with the most up-to-date information available about the GED 2002.

### Subject Area Focus

This issue will provide you with an overview of the major changes to the GED 2002 Tests. Future issues will take a single subject area and will provide you with tips, techniques, strategies and activities for the GED classroom.

- \* Issue Two - Language Arts, Writing
- \* Issue Three - Social Studies
- \* Issue Four - Science
- \* Issue Five - Language Arts, Reading
- \* Issue Six - Mathematics and the Scientific Calculator

### Special Accommodations

Dr. Rochelle Kenyon will provide information in each issue on adults with learning disabilities. She will provide you with strategies and resources that you can use in the GED classroom to help students who are struggling due to their specific learning disabilities. Look for subject area activities that you can use in the GED classroom.

### Featured Writers

Each issue will spotlight the work of two GED practitioners from around the state. The featured writers will provide information targeted to specific subject areas within the GED Tests. These articles will provide you with activities and lessons that you can use in the GED classroom.

### GED Client Services

Jacqueline Batts and June Alford will provide you with information from the Florida GED Testing Office. They will provide updates on training opportunities available for GED Chief Examiners, Alternate Examiners and other testing staff members. As the countdown continues to January 1, 2002, Jacqueline and June will provide information about scheduling examinees and how to market your GED Testing program.

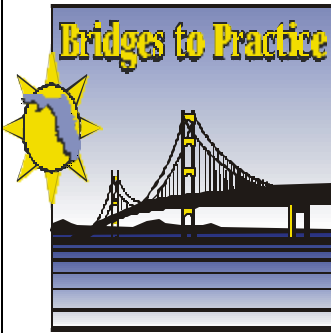
Join us as we prepare our programs and our students for GED 2002!

## GED 2002 TRAINING AT ACE CONFERENCE

GED 2002 Training took center stage at the ACE of Florida Conference held September 26-28 in Miami. The ASE/GED/VPI Task Force joined forces with the GED 2002 Project from Florida Atlantic University to provide participants with a wide range of training opportunities. Dr. Rochelle Kenyon led off with two sessions focusing on the needs of adults with learning disabilities. Susan Pittman and Bonnie Vondracek provided GED 2002 training ses-

sions targeted for administrators and teachers. John Wigley and Dr. Debra Hargrove provided a technology twist on training by introducing nine new web-based training components focusing on implementation of the GED 2002. The web-based training can be accessed online at:

[www.aceofflorida.org/inservice](http://www.aceofflorida.org/inservice)  
[www.floridatechnet.org/inservice](http://www.floridatechnet.org/inservice)



**Florida's Focus on  
Adults with Learning Disabilities**

**An estimated  
50-80% of students  
attending literacy  
programs have  
characteristics of  
learning disabilities.**

### **GED Connections**

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**Dr. Rochelle Kenyon**  
**Susan Pittman**  
**Bonnie Vondracek**

## **THE SPECIAL CONNECTION**

**DR. ROCHELLE KENYON**

Have you had the experience of working with an adult student with learning disabilities? If your answer is no, there may be several reasons. Students may not self-identify and will attempt to fit into your program without requesting any assistance. Or, students may be lacking documentation as learning disabled. In either case, the odds are that you've had students in your class who either have suspected or diagnosed learning disabilities.

According to the National Institute for Literacy, between 30-50% of the population has undiagnosed learning disabilities. In addition, an estimated 50-80% of students attending literacy programs have characteristics of learning disabilities. As an educator, a main concern should be how to recognize students who have special needs and make

their learning a successful experience.

A new project, *Bridges to Practice: Florida's Focus on Adults with Learning Disabilities*, has been funded through the Division of Workforce Development. The primary purpose of the grant is to conduct statewide and regional training based on the national, research-based model. Training components will include Awareness, Screening and Diagnosis, Legal Requirements, Instructional Modifications and Accommodations. For more information or to schedule training, please contact:

Rochelle Kenyon, Bridges Project Director  
(561) 368-9370 **RKenyon721@aol.com**

For Bridges to Practice Newsletter go to:  
[www.floridatechnet.org/bridges](http://www.floridatechnet.org/bridges)

## **GED 2002 LANGUAGE ARTS, WRITING**

The GED 2002 Language Arts, Writing Test will have a new focus. The focus is on better preparing adults to use their writing skills in the workplace. With help from a number of businesses from across the country, the GED Testing Service has developed a test that will include:

- \* Business-oriented materials, including memos, letters, handbooks
- \* Questions related to organization of writing
- \* Greater emphasis on a student's ability to edit written material

The GED 2002 Language Arts, Writing Test will include an expository essay that will be scored using a 4-point scale.

### **What Can You Do To Prepare?**

Now is the time for you to begin using real-life materials in the classroom. Keep those memos, letters, handbooks, etc., as instructional tools. Have students edit real-life material so that they can enhance their own writing skills. Incorporate more timed writing activities into the classroom. Help students increase their organization skills by scrambling sentences and having them make a decision as to the correct order.

## **GED 2002 SCIENCE**

The GED 2002 Science Test has been developed using the National Science Education Content Standards. These standards focus on students using the scientific method for solving problems. As a GED teacher, it is important that you begin developing activities and lessons that help students understand scientific concepts and how they relate to daily life. The GED 2002 Science Test will include a greater emphasis on:

- \* Health and environmental issues
- \* Relevance of science in everyday life

### **What Can You Do To Prepare?**

Bring in hurricane tracking maps or informational brochures found at your local supermarket. This type of real-life material can provide you with weeks of activities. Use the hurricane tracking maps to teach map skills. Have students plan evacuation routes or supplies needed if they are going to stay home during severe weather. Each activity requires multiple skills, including planning, problem solving, budgeting, etc. Visit [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) or tape local weather reports and have students develop charts and graphs to track local weather, include temperature, rainfall.

## GED 2002 TRAINING COMING TO A CENTER NEAR YOU!

The Florida Department of Education has approved an Adult and Family Literacy Leadership Grant application submitted by Lyndrae Martin, Ph. D., Dean of Adult Education at St. Johns River Community College. The grant will provide resources to enable GED 2002 Trainers to come to your agency and provide training at no cost to you.

The GED 2002 Direct Training Project will provide 60 training and technical assistance sessions across the state over the next nine months. The project was developed to provide all GED teachers and administrators an opportunity to learn how the GED 2002 Series Tests will impact their programs—and

what they can do to start preparing for 2002. Susan Pittman and Bonnie Vondracek will be the primary trainers. They have had extensive experience working with the ASE/GED/VPI Practitioners' Task Force developing GED materials, as well as conducting training sessions across the state.

The GED 2002 Direct Training Project allows you the opportunity to request the type of training that will be of greatest assistance in your area. To schedule training for your site contact :

Susan Pittman at (561) 842-2212 or  
Bonnie Vondracek at (407) 957-4523

## GED 2002 SOCIAL STUDIES

The GED 2002 Social Studies Test will present a challenge to adult students as they prepare for more history, civics, government and geography questions. The test will include more graphics and require students to have higher level problem solving and visual processing skills. To prepare for these changes include:

- \* Visual materials in the room including, newspapers, graphs, maps, political cartoons, etc.
- \* Key documents, such as the Declaration

of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Federalist Papers, landmark Supreme Court cases, etc.

### What Can You Do To Prepare?

Contact your local newspaper and ask for copies for the classroom; they are usually free to educators. Set up activities to enable students to work and learn together as you review the basics about key documents that make our country what it is today. Have students draw their own maps of the surrounding area to improve map skills.

## GED 2002 MATHEMATICS

If anything strikes fear into the heart of a GED teacher it is the changes to the Mathematics Test. There are three major changes:

- \* The scientific calculator
- \* The alternate-format or open-ended math problems
- \* Alternate format grids

Little has been said about the increase in skill level required by the new test. Students no longer will be able to rely on basic computation to pass the test. Only 25% of the test will focus on number operations. The new test will challenge students' abilities to solve problems with:

- \* Measurement and geometry
- \* Data analysis and statistics
- \* Algebra, including quadratic equations

### What Can You Do To Prepare?

Purchase classroom sets of the Casio fx-260 Solar Scientific Calculator and give yourself and your students time to practice and become comfortable with its operation. Use more *realia* in the mathematics class - cash register receipts, sale papers and advertisements, tax forms, etc. Each of these real-life items can be used to teach basic as well as more advanced skills in GED Mathematics.

## GED 2002 Training Topics

The following is a list of just some of the topics that can be covered:

- GED 2002 - Overview of the Changes
- Instructional Strategies in the GED 2002 Classroom
- Using the Scientific Calculator
- Enhancing Visual Processing Skills in the GED
- Using Rubrics in the GED Classroom
- Working with Alternate Format Problems and Grids
- Effective Test Taking Strategies
- Using Technology in the GED Classroom
- Customized Training for Your Site

### For More Information Or To Schedule Training Contact:

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Skptvs@aol.com

Bonnie Vondracek  
407-957-4523  
Bv73008@aol.com



Toll Free Hotline  
1-877-FLA-GED1

## Check Out Florida GED on the WEB

[www.floridatechnet.org/inservice](http://www.floridatechnet.org/inservice)  
[www.aceofflorida.org/ged](http://www.aceofflorida.org/ged)

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1-877-FLA-GED1

## GED 2002 LANGUAGE ARTS, READING

Not to be forgotten, Language Arts, Reading will also see major changes in 2002. The new test will join the rest of the GED 2002 Tests with the inclusion of more real-life, business-oriented material. There will still be the old favorites on this test, including poetry and drama, but prepare students for business documents to be included in the nonfiction section.

As with all GED Tests, the subject matter of the texts will reflect an appreciation of the diverse cultural backgrounds and age-groups of GED students. The Language Arts, Reading Test will include 40 items and will still take 65 minutes to complete. The new test

will shift from 60% comprehension to 60-70% analysis and synthesis questions. Some of the synthesis questions will be expanded questions that ask the reader to synthesize information from another source with the information from the main reading.

### What Can You Do To Prepare?

Incorporate timed readings in your classroom. Help students increase speed and accuracy in reading. Conduct small group sessions and discuss poetry and drama, two areas that cause adult students great concern. Encourage reading everyday in and out of the classroom.

## FROM MY DESK TO YOURS

**JUNE ALFORD, CLIENT SERVICES  
FLORIDA GED TESTING OFFICE**

The Florida GED office is a happening place these days! Since July we have scored an average of 3,300 tests per month and have issued over 5,000 diplomas. Here are a few FYI and helpful hints that I think will keep us running smoothly.

- We are still a few weeks away from implementation of the new GED scoring system. You will receive notification of the exact date, your logon ID and password by mail approximately two weeks prior to the scheduled implementation.
- Many of your examinees depend on passing the GED for a job, college or the military. Because this is very important to the quality of life for these folks, we make every effort to accommodate special scoring when necessary. The following simple procedures should make it easy for you and us to have a positive impact on the lives of these examinees. If you need to have a test considered for special scoring, please:
  1. E-mail or FAX a request to Jacqueline Batts prior to the test date. You will receive a return approval for special scoring.
  2. Submit a separate DVE 503 for the individual on PINK paper.
  3. Submit a copy of the approved special scoring request with the DVE 503 and answer sheets
- The 2001 contracts will be arriving shortly. Please follow the processing instructions carefully to insure a smooth transition.

Thanks for all the hard work you do at the local level and remember— we are always ready and willing to lend you a hand with anything you need!

This newsletter was developed by the Adult Secondary/GED/VPI Committee of the Practitioners Task Force, with an Adult Education State Leadership grant, 2000-2001, from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Development.