

# Resources for the GED Classroom

Teaching in the **Florida GED PLUS** classroom can present a challenge to many adult education instructors. The **Florida GED PLUS** program provides a more advanced curriculum for students who wish to pursue postsecondary education after passing the GED Tests. The majority of GED materials currently used by teachers focus on the basic skills and concepts required to pass the test. To provide higher level lessons for **Florida GED PLUS** students, instructors need to

take advantage of resources not normally used in the traditional GED program. These resources include higher level math and reading materials as well as access to more materials that require higher level critical thinking skills in each of the content areas.

This Technical Assistance paper provides instructors with resources they can use in the **Florida GED PLUS** classroom to enhance their lessons.

## Expect More, Provide More

More than 68% of GED candidates state that they wish to pursue higher education. However, if they are to avoid remedial courses and be successful in higher education, these adult learners need to learn more and earn higher scores on the GED Tests. For students who wish to pursue higher education, meeting the minimum standards on the GED Tests is just not enough.

**Florida GED PLUS** is designed to enable GED students to prepare for, enter, and succeed in postsecondary education. The goals and objectives of the program are to provide change in students' learning, as well as in the GED Preparatory Program, in order for students to better achieve their personal goals of succeeding in postsecondary education. The program focuses on assisting students in attaining college-ready skills in the areas of writing, reading, mathematics

(including algebra), and the goal-setting, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills necessary to be successful in a college atmosphere.

Students who want to continue their education expect more from the GED program than just the basics. **Florida GED PLUS** instructors have to meet their students' expectations and provide additional services. These students need more advanced academic skills, learning strategies, and problem-solving skills in order for them to successfully transition from the GED to the college classroom, where they will not just survive but thrive and most importantly be able to achieve their educational goals.

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# Resources for the GED PLUS Classroom

## Professional Organizations

Each of the following organizations provide a wide range of service to educators. They provide publications, research, lesson plans and activities for the classroom, and professional development opportunities.

**Florida GED PLUS** instructors may wish to take advantage of these resources and join one or two of the organizations listed below. Membership fees are reasonable and the benefits are worth the investment.

**National Council of Teachers of Math** Professional organization for teachers of mathematics. Research, publications, national standards, and general information are available at the site. <http://www.nctm.org/>

**National Council of Teachers of English** The professional organization for English teachers. <http://www.ncte.org>

**National Science Teachers Organization** The professional organization for science teachers. <http://www.nsta.org/>

**National Council for the Social Studies** The professional association for social studies teachers. <http://www.socialstudies.org/>

**International Reading Association** A professional organization founded in 1956 as a professional organization for those involved in teaching reading to learners of all ages. <http://www.reading.org/>

## Research

Today's adult educator needs to access the most recent and relevant research possible to help identify new strategies and techniques for the classroom. The following resources provide links to some of the most up-to-date research available.

American Council on Education. (2006). *Who Passed the GED Tests? 2004 Statistical Report*. Washington, DC: GED Testing Service. Available from <http://www.gedtest.org>

Curry, D., Schmitt, M.J., and Waldron, S. (1996, July). *A Framework for Adult Numeracy Standards: The Mathematical Skills and Abilities Adults Need to Be Equipped for the Future*. Adult Numeracy Practitioners Network. <http://www.literacynet.org/ann/framework-full.html>

Gillespie, M. *Research in Writing: Implications for Adult Literacy Education*. NCSALL The Annual Review of Adult Learning and Literacy. [http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~ncsall/ann\\_rev/vol2\\_3.html](http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~ncsall/ann_rev/vol2_3.html).

The Partnership for Reading Research site developed by the National Institute for Literacy. <http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/>

National College Transition Network Research on transition to college for adult graduates of GED and Adult Diploma Programs is an emerging field. The NCTN is organizing and reviewing the available information that directly discusses the college transition issues of these students.

<http://www.collegetransition.org/research/research.html>

## Math Manipulatives

Math presents one of the greatest challenges for GED candidates. The average passing score for math in 2004 was 469. **Florida GED PLUS** students need higher scores and better skills if they are to be successful on the College Placement Test (CPT). Hands-on learning activities help students better understand the more complex concepts found in algebra and mathematics. The following websites provide teachers with a variety of math manipulations for the **Florida GED PLUS** classroom.

### Algebra Tiles

[http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/frames\\_asid\\_189\\_g\\_3\\_t\\_2.html?open=activities](http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/frames_asid_189_g_3_t_2.html?open=activities) - virtual algebra tiles

[http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/category\\_g\\_4\\_t\\_2.html](http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/category_g_4_t_2.html) - virtual algebra tiles with activities

<http://regentsprep.org/Regents/math/teachres/ttiles.htm> - homemade algebra tiles

### Pattern Blocks

[http://arcytech.org/java/patterns/patterns\\_j.shtml](http://arcytech.org/java/patterns/patterns_j.shtml) - virtual pattern blocks

[http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/category\\_g\\_4\\_t\\_3.html](http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/category_g_4_t_3.html) - interactive manipulatives and activities

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius/Patterns/> - exploring fractions – Cynthia Lanus

### Geoboards

<http://standards.nctm.org/document/eexamples/chap4/4.2/> - interactive geoboard activities (NCTM)

[http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/frames\\_asid\\_125\\_g\\_1\\_t\\_3.html](http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/frames_asid_125_g_1_t_3.html) - virtual geoboard

<http://mathforum.org/trscavo/geoboards/dotpaper.html> - dot paper

*Education is not the filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire.*

*William Butler Yeats*

# Resources for the GED PLUS Classroom

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## Five for Five

Over the years, we have had an opportunity to research the World Wide Web in all content areas. We have seen the good, the bad, and the downright ugly. However, we have also been amazed at the diverse and creative content of many websites. Those websites have provided ideas for activities and lessons that are now used in GED classrooms across the country. With that in mind, we have identified our top five sites for each of the five content areas of the GED Tests. We encourage you to use these sites in the **Florida GED PLUS** classroom.

*Bonnie and Susan*

**Language Arts, Writing** College-bound students must be able to communicate effectively in writing. These resources provide teachers with grammar guides, worksheets for the classroom, and tips and strategies for improving students' writing skills.

### Hacker Handbook Resources

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/getsource.cfm?id=5673>

**Guide to Grammar and Writing** Capital Community College <http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm>

### Purdue University's OWL

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

### Writing Centre of the University of Ottwa. Hyper-Grammar.

<http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/partsp.html>

### Grammar Bytes

<http://www.chompchomp.com/>

**Language Arts, Reading** These sites provide a wide range of resources from books to short stories to vocabulary games and activities. Teachers can use these materials to supplement other reading resource that they may currently be using.

### An Online Library of Literature

<http://www.literature.org>

### Learning Resources

<http://www.literacynet.org/cnnsf/home.html>

### Smithsonian Online

<http://www.si.edu>

### Story Bytes

<http://www.storybytes.com>

### Word Play

<http://www.wolinskyweb.net/word.htm>

**Social Studies** Trying to cover economics, history (U.S. and world), geography, and civics and government can be a challenge for any GED teacher. These resources

are among the best on the WWW for accessing information, lesson plans, and activities for the GED classroom.

### An Outline of American History

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/H/index.htm>

### Basic Reading In U.S. Democracy

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/demo.htm>

### Cartoons for the Classrooms

<http://nieonline.com/detroit/cftc.cfm>

### Center for Civic Education

<http://www.civiced.org>

**Educational Hotlists at the Franklin Institute** (history, geography, and much more)

<http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/hotlists/hotlists.html>

**Science** Trying to cover life, physical, and earth and space science without access to labs for hands-on learning activities is difficult for many GED teachers. The following sites provide a wide range of activities, resources, and even online learning activities for students.

### Biology 4Kids

<http://www.biology4kids.com/index.html>

### Brain POP

<http://www.brainpop.com>

### Explore Science

<http://www.explorescience.com/>

**Franklin Institute's Educational Hotlists** (earth, physical, space, and weather science as well as health)

<http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/hotlists/>

### The Top Ten Sites

[http://www.exploratorium.edu/learning\\_studio/sciencesites.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/learning_studio/sciencesites.html)

**Mathematics** The latest statistics from GEDTS clearly demonstrate that GED students struggle with mathematics. These sites provide a variety of activities, lessons, and information for the classroom.

### AAAMath

<http://aaamath.com>

### Clever Games for Clever People

<http://www.cs.uidaho.edu/~casey931/conway/games.html>

### Math in Daily Life

<http://www.learner.org/exhibits/dailymath/>

### PurpleMath.com

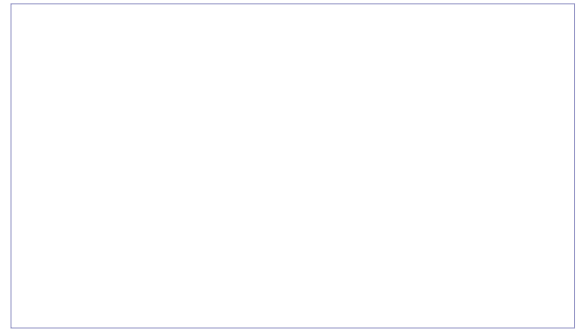
<http://www.purplemath.com/modules/modules.htm>

### The Math Forum

<http://mathforum.org/>

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[http://www.floridatechnet.org/  
gedplus/](http://www.floridatechnet.org/gedplus/)

## One-Stop Sources for Lesson Plans

**A-Z Teacher Stuff** This site includes a wide range of lesson plans in all content areas. This site is either searchable or teachers can browse each category by grade level.  
[http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Lesson\\_Plans/](http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Lesson_Plans/)

**Florida TechNet** This site developed and funded through State Leadership Grants serves as a portal to a wide range of resources, including hundreds of lessons for the adult education classroom developed by Florida's adult educators.  
<http://www.floridatechnet.org>

**goENC.com** ENC Learning, formerly known as the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse, has one of the most comprehensive collection of materials for math and science educators. The site includes more than 27,000 resources for teachers including lesson ideas, articles about teaching practices, curriculum resources, professional development tools, and much more. A fee of \$29.95 is required for individuals and is well worth this small investment. <http://www.goENC.com>

**Marco Polo Internet Content for the Classroom** is a nonprofit consortium of premier national and international education organizations and the Verizon Foundation. Launched in 1997 as a collection of standards-

based, discipline-specific educational Web sites for K-12 teachers, Marco Polo features seven content websites with lesson plans, student interactive content, downloadable worksheets, links to panel-reviewed Web sites and additional resources.

- **ARTSEdge** Created by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts <http://arsedge.kennedy-center.org/>
- **EconEdLink** Created by the National Council on Economic Education <http://www.econedlink.org/>
- **EDSITEment** Developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities <http://edsitement.neh.gov/>
- **Illustrations** Designed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics <http://illustrations.nctm.org/>
- **ReadWriteThink** Developed by the International Reading Association and The National Council of Teachers of English <http://www.readwritethink.org/>
- **Science NetLinks** Developed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/>
- **Xpeditions** Developed by the National Geographic Society <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/>