General Education Development (GED) Testing Fee Increase Update

Overview: The GED Testing Service is now a joint venture between the American Council on Education and for profit Pearson Publishing. As a result of this joint venture, the 2014 series of GED tests will be delivered in a computer-based format. In order to be approved to administer the new series in January 2014, testing centers must transition to a computer-based version of the current tests <u>prior to the release of the new 2014 tests</u>. This requires testing centers to have computers that are compatible with the computer-based tests, approved desks and/or dividers, an electronic signature pad, and digital cameras.

Approved Fee Increase, Scholarships, and Waivers: The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorized a new fee of $150 for the increased cost of the complete battery of GED tests, staff and infrastructure as recommended by the GED Advisory Group. The $150 fee will continue when the current 5-test battery is replaced by a 4-test battery in January 2014.

<u>This includes authorizing colleges and testing centers to offer scholarships and waivers for all or part of the fee</u>.

New Fee Implementation Date: October 1, 2012. The October 1, 2012 implementation date allows colleges/testing centers time to communicate changes to stakeholders and update forms and processes prior to the January 2014 required changes.

Computer Based Testing (CBT) Implementation: Further details about the implementation of computer-based testing will be released at a later date.

Suggested Reminders to Students:

1. Students who are prepared should be encouraged to complete the GED prior to the fee increase on October 1, 2012.

2. Students who are studying for the current GED should be encouraged to take tests before January 1, 2014. As of January 1, 2014, students who have not completed all five tests in the battery will have to retake all tests.

For questions, contact your local GED testing center or the GED State Administrator at **GEDadmin@sbctc.edu**