



# New York State Board of Regents

## February 2015



**First Year of  
Implementation of the New  
High School Equivalency  
Exam**

# Background

**March 2011**

GEDTS announces a new test beginning in 2014 that is only available on computer, is immediately aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and is double the cost.

**November 2012**

New York State Education Department (NYSED) issues a Request for Proposal (RFP). CTB/McGraw-Hill and ETS responded, GEDTS does not.

**March 2013**

CTB/McGraw-Hill awarded NYSED contract to administer the Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ (TASC).

**January 2014**

First TASC administered in New York State (NYS).

# HSE Assessment Options



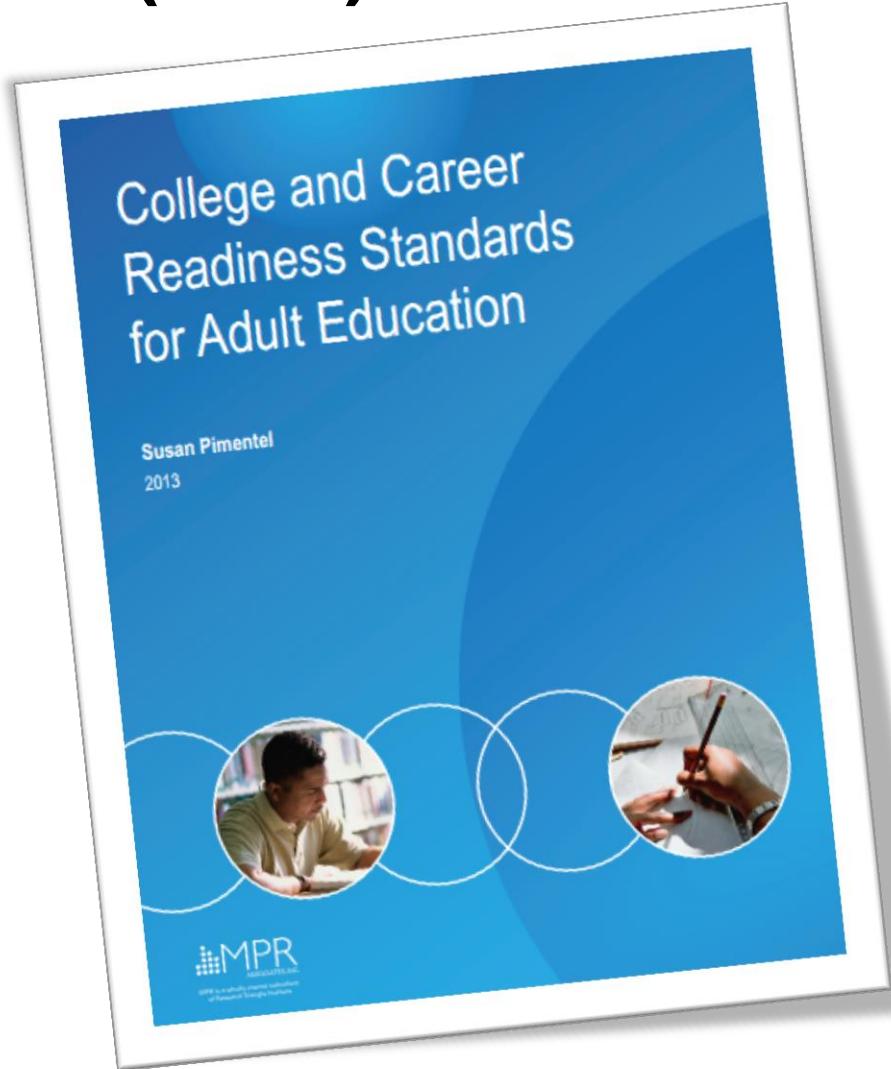
Publisher	CTB/McGraw-Hill	Pearson Testing Service	ETS/Iowa Testing Programs
Format	Paper/Pencil & Computer-Based Test (CBT)	100% CBT; only administered at Pearson testing centers	Paper/Pencil & CTB
Price/Administration	\$52/\$40	\$120/NA	\$50/\$40
Standards	Yes – 100% new content, with gradual alignment to CCSS	Yes – immediate alignment to CCSS and greater focus on postsecondary readiness	Content from Iowa Testing – Normed in 2011
Credit for Previous GED	State Option (NYS's "Grandfathering")	No	State Option

# Test Assessing Secondary Completion™

- **Five Subtests:**
  - **Reading**
  - **Writing**
  - **Mathematics**
  - **Science**
  - **Social Studies**
- **Examinees must get 500 or above on each subtest to receive a high school equivalency (HSE) diploma from New York State**
  - Examinees must also receive at least a 2 out of 8 on the Writing essay to pass the Writing section
- **Questions types include:**
  - **Multiple choice**
  - **Grid-in math questions (similar to those on the SAT)**
  - **Constructed response**
  - **Essay (Writing subtest)**
  - **Technology-Enhanced Items for CBT only**

# **Implementation of the National College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards**

- **Gradual phase-in of national college and career readiness standards**
- **Close collaboration between NYSED and national test vendor CTB/McGraw-Hill**
- **Preparation of 5,500 adult education instructors through programs including the CUNY Common Core Institutes**

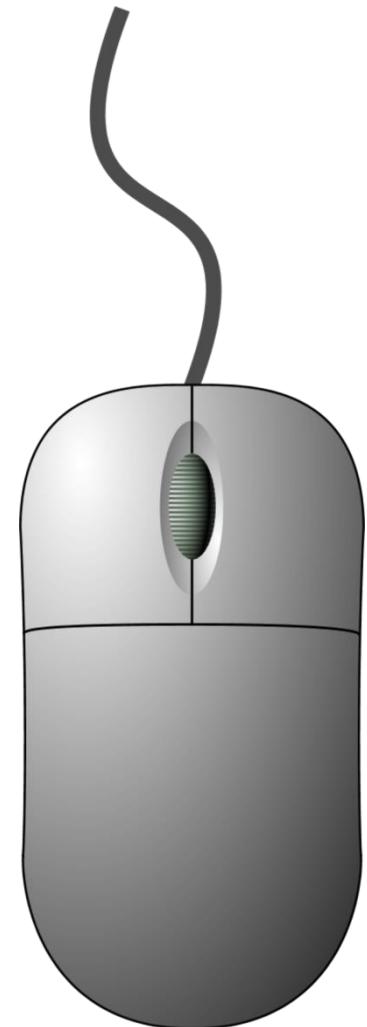


# **2013 GED Test Surge and “Grandfathering”**

- **2013 Test Surge**
  - An increase was expected as examinees tried to take the 2002 Series of the GED before the more rigorous 2014 Series of the GED was released.
  - A national campaign was released to encourage examinees who had finished parts of the GED to complete the remaining sections because old GED scores would not carry over to the new GED.
  - First nine months of 2013 saw 22.6% increase in number of tests administered over previous year; 108% increase over previous year in December 2013.
- **New York State “Grandfathering”**
  - Dec. 2013: The Board of Regents authorizes amendment to Regulation 100.7 allowing a passing score on up to four GED subtests to be accepted as a passing score for the corresponding subtest on TASC for two years.

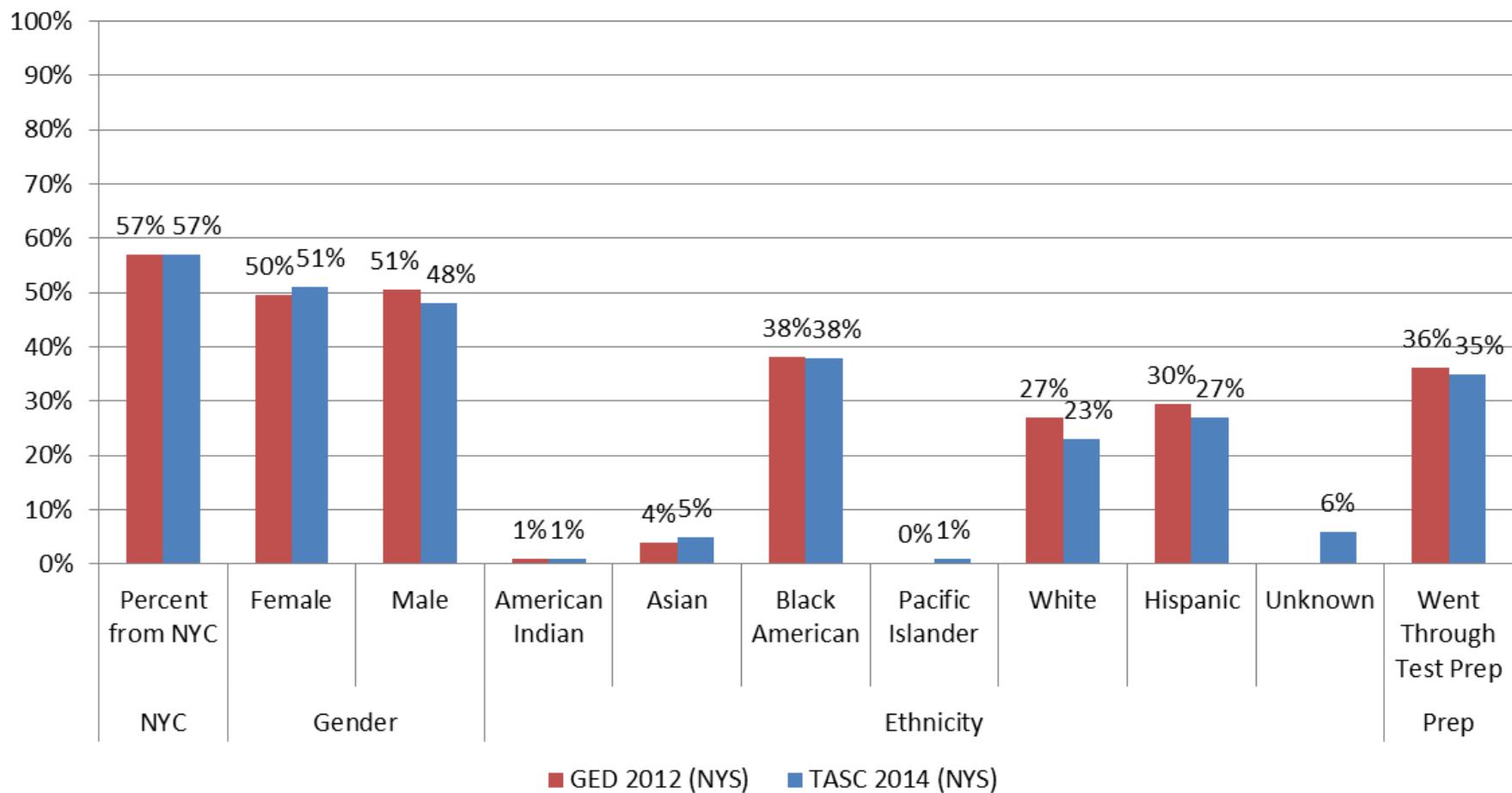
# Implementation of Computer-Based Testing

- TASC is first CBT sponsored by NYSED.
- A 2015 NYSED survey found 86% of test centers do not have the technical expertise or infrastructure to adopt CBT.
- TASC contract allows for flexibility in number of tests administered by CTB to allow for gradual phase-in over time.
- In 2014, we had 19 established sites, although only 2.7% of examinees took TASC on computer.
- In 2015, 14 additional CTB test centers have been approved and more sites are being considered; new RFP for public test center reimbursement provides incentives for CBT.



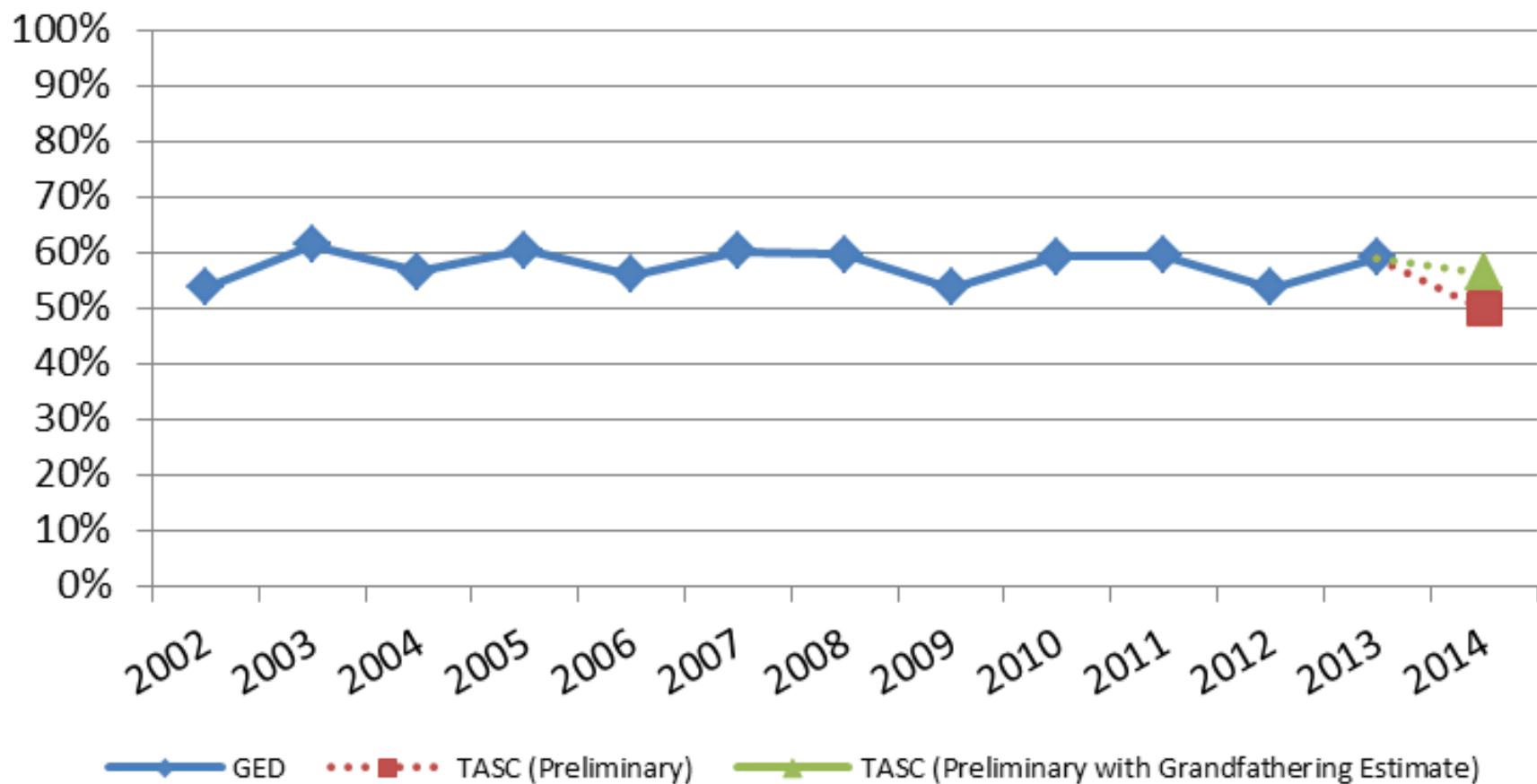
# Administration of the 2014 TASC

## NYS Examinee Demographics: GED 2012 vs. TASC 2014



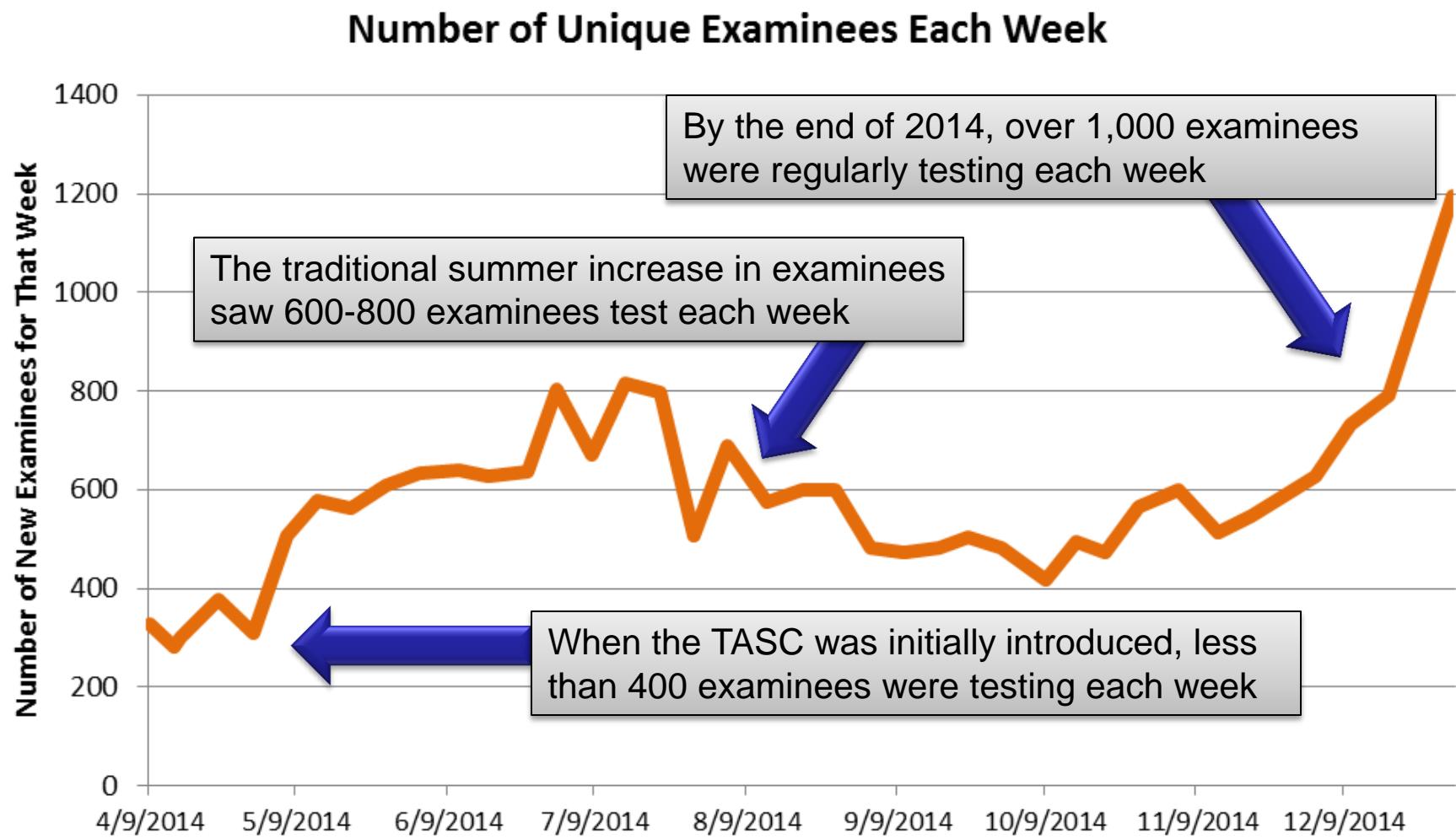
# NYS Examinee Performance on TASC 2014

## GED and TASC Historic Pass Rates in NYS



Source: 2002-2013 Data from GED Annual Statistical Reports, 2014 TASC data from CTB/McGraw-Hill, 2014 GED data from GEDTS.

# Number of New Examinees Each Week



Source: CTB/McGraw-Hill. Moving average over four weeks reported to estimate daily test-taking counts due to data being collected in weekly increments. .

# Next Steps

## Access

- As required under NYS Ed Law 317, testing will remain at no cost to the tester. While increasing computer-based testing, NYSED will ensure that paper-based testing remains an option for NYS testers.

## Rigor

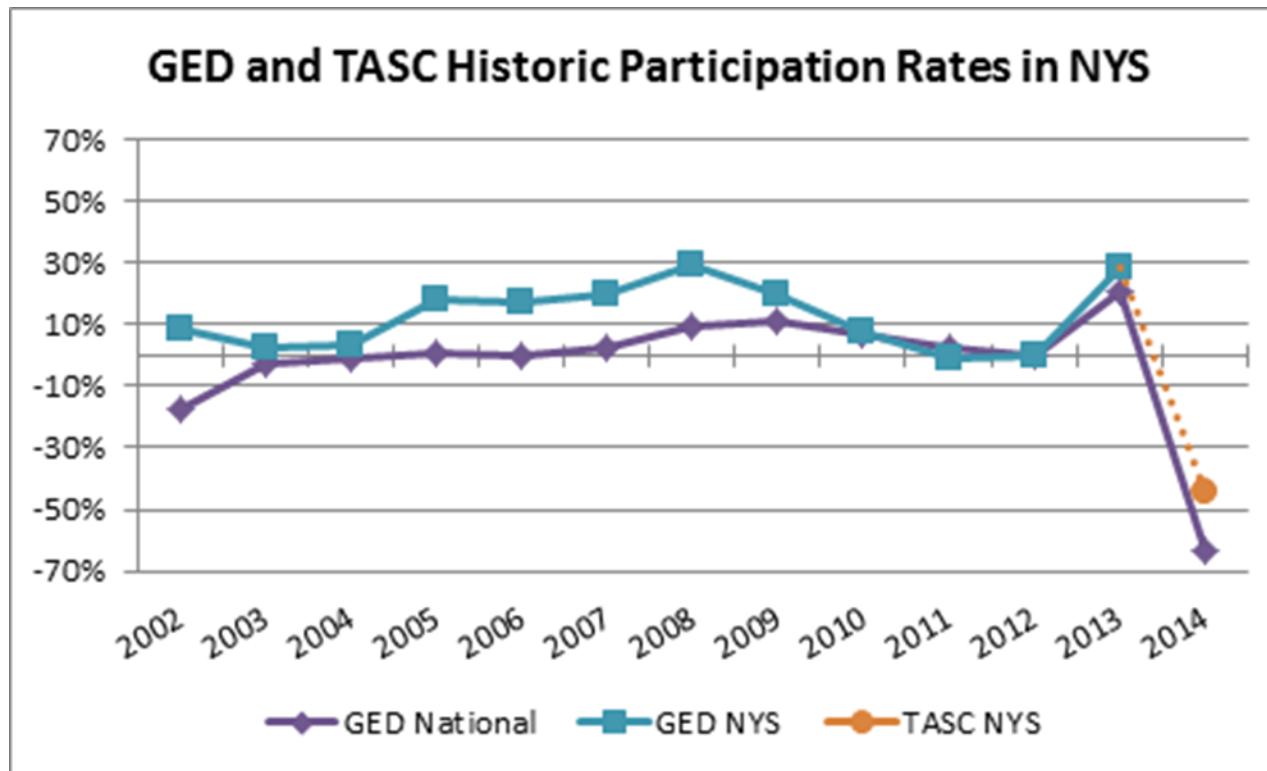
- NYSED will continue to collaborate with CTB/McGraw-Hill on the appropriate phase-in of the College and Career Readiness Standards.

## Increase Opportunity

- CTB/McGraw-Hill and NYSED will continue to work on a national effort to ensure the HSE credential is recognized throughout the country as an indicator of the knowledge and skills indicative of a high school graduate.

**(Additional Slides)**

# GED and TASC Historic Participation Rates



# TASC Weekly Pass Rates

Initial pass rates in New York State were below 40%. By the end of 2014, pass rates were regularly above 50%. For comparison, the GED 2012 pass rate for New York State was 53.8%.

