



**COLLEGE & CAREER
READINESS**

Innovative Approaches to HISET/GED Boot Camps Across North Carolina

**Presented by Jennifer Lester, Russell Gardner, Stephanie Reeder,
Mary Jane Hartley, Veronica Powell, Devonne Jimison, & Jenifer Bean**

February 26, 2026

Meet Jennifer Lester



Director of Gateway to Employment &
Academic Readiness (GEAR)

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Boot Camp

- Contact hours course
- Offered for more than 5 years
- Initial curriculum passed down over several instructors
- Instructors can use any resource of value
- Essential Education
- Practice tests, practice tests, and practice tests
- Encourage content standards
- **Instructor is critical** - engaging, knowledgeable, experienced

Requirements



Five-week program

- 5 hours of class Monday - Thursday (20 hours)
- One subject is taught each week
- Test weekly upon subject completion
- Required attendance for each day
- Math is often taught over 2 weeks (depending on need)

Weekly orientations allow immediate entry - constant rotation

Pretesting scores matter

- R: high level 4
- M: high level 4

Flexibility



- Some students with lower scores have been successful.
- Some students with higher scores are unable to handle the pace.
- Students can take one subject but move to another class for other subjects
- A rotating schedule is available
- Attendance and testing are heavily stressed
- Regular conferences when goals are not being met
- Math is often the greatest barrier - We have a math only instructor for those who struggle

Retention & Encouragement

- Retention specialist is always monitoring attendance
- Reaching out to discuss missed classes
- Work with students when there are barriers
- Each student is treated individually
- Increasing challenges
 - ⑩ Lower scores; instructor adapts as needed
 - ⑩ Inability to meet the scheduling demands
 - Students are diverted to another class



Jennifer Lester



Meet Russell Gardner



Director, College & Career
Readiness/Academic Studies Center

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HSE Bootcamp Design



- Constructed as an 8-week contact hour course under BSP-2000
 - 2 weeks per subject: Social Studies > Science > RLA > Math
 - 4 hours per day, 5 days per week* (every other Friday is test day)
- Qualifying students should be at NRS 4 minimum (Reading & Math)
 - Several exceptions to this standard were made to ensure adequate class quota
- Designed as a focused crash-course for each GED subject
- Students may attend the entire course, or only the weeks in which their needed subject is being covered

HSE Bootcamp Resources



- Resources used in facilitating GED Bootcamp:
 - YouTube videos
 - Kahn Academy
 - Various online resources
 - Learning Express
 - Essential Education
 - Local resources and worksheets

HSE Bootcamp



Student Outcomes

2023 (23.5% HSE Gain)

- 4 Iterations, total of 34 students participated
- 18 successfully completed at least 1 subtest
- 7 completed HSE (≤ 2 subtests needed)
- 1 completed HSE (≥ 3 subtests needed)

2024 (29.0% HSE Gain)

- 3 Iterations, total of 31 students participated
- 19 successfully completed at least 1 subtest
- 6 completed HSE (≤ 2 subtests needed)
- 3 completed HSE (≥ 3 subtests needed)

2025 (27.2% HSE Gain)

- 1 Iteration, total of 11 students participated
- 6 successfully completed at least 1 subtest
- 2 completed HSE (≤ 2 subtests needed)
- 1 completed HSE (≥ 3 subtests needed)

HSE Bootcamp

Challenges



- Maintaining consistent student attendance
- Ensuring completion of hybrid hours online
- Beginning in 2025 through present, fewer eligible students entering program
 - Observing an increase in the population of COVID-era students presenting with significantly lower proficiency levels
 - > 75% entering at or below NRS 2 in Math and are unable to succeed in a Bootcamp-style setting
 - Only one iteration offered in 2025. None planned in 2026.

Russell Gardner



Questions
?
Answers
?

Meet Stephanie Reeder

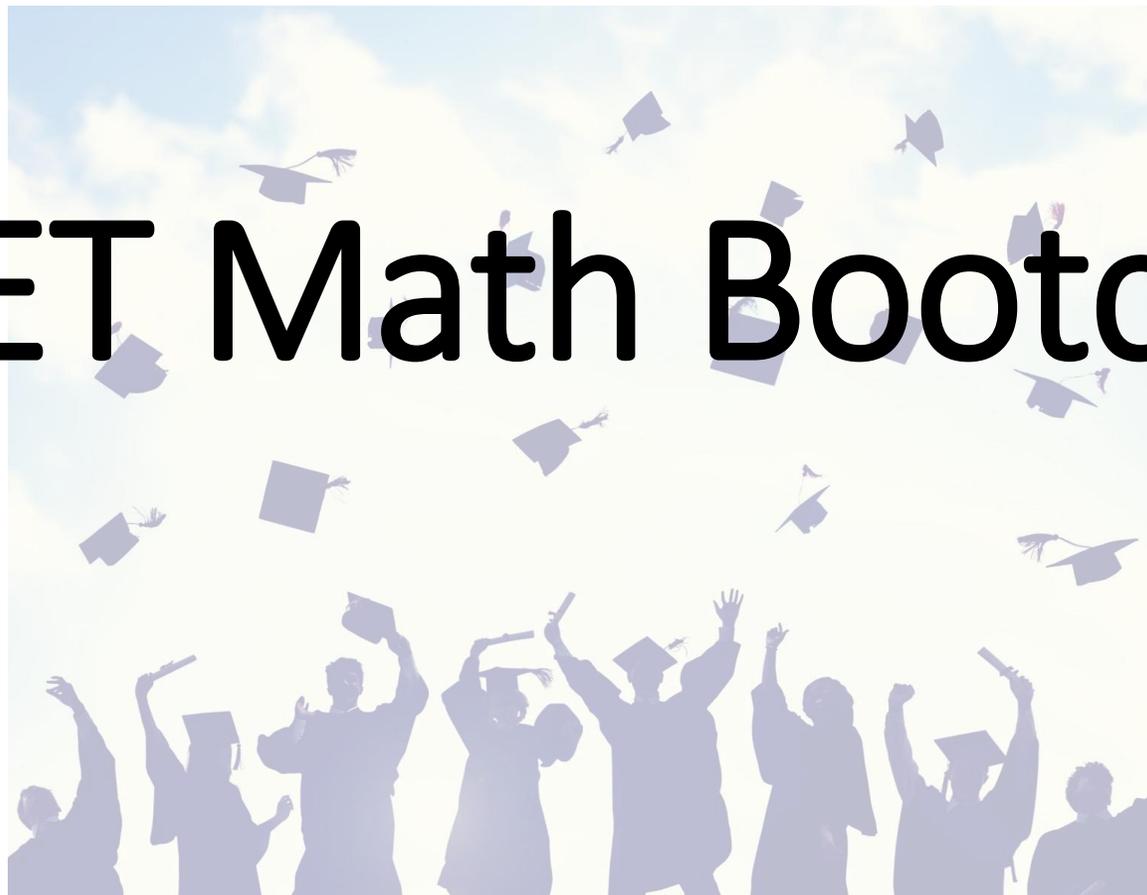


Director, College & Career Readiness

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HiSET Math Bootcamp



Hi-Set Math Bootcamp

MPHSE – The Idea

Bootcamp Design

- 6 week Hi-Set Math
- ~96-hour membership - BSP-3550
- Face-to-face class
- Small class sizes (<10)
- Monday–Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (16 hours/week) – **INTENSE!**



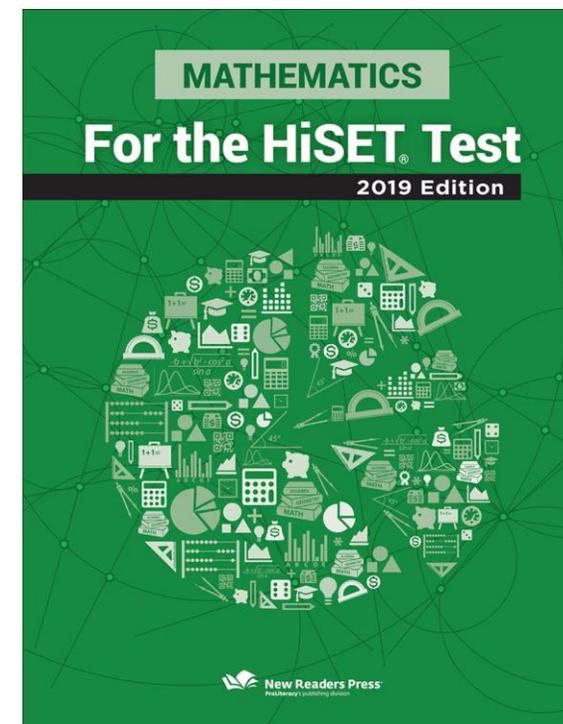


Class Content



[BSP-3550 Course Plan from Combined Course Library](#)

**New Reader's Press, Mathematics
for the HiSET Test**





Student Selection

Designed for students that only need math instruction to graduate

- Or Math and Science
- Passed all other HSE exams
- Test-ready reading scores in TABE
- Math NRS level 2+ (3+ preferred)
- Past students that could not pass math

Marketing

- Current students
- Calling past students that stopped attending
- Not specifically marketed to the community

Incentives & Outcomes

Incentives

- Set testing days at the Assessment Center
- CCR will pay for the Hi-Set Math test
- Graduation!

Outcomes

- 100% Pass Rate for 2.5 years now!
- Increased number of graduates
- Reduced completion time
- Re-engagement of past students



TIPS TO SUCCEED

- Experienced instructor
- Small class sizes
- Highly individualized
 - Start with Hi-Set pretest
 - Master the basics
- Cohort testing
 - Pre, mid, post, and final
 - Simulate testing environment
- Strong Advising before entry
- Mandatory attendance
- **CELEBRATE!**



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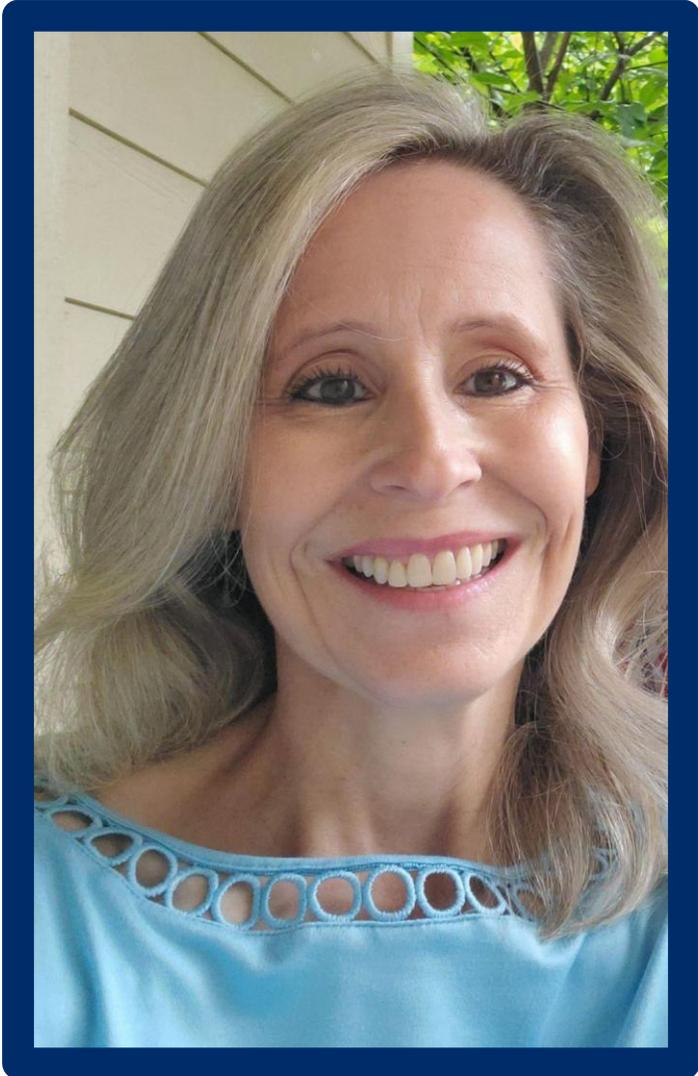
Stephanie Reeder



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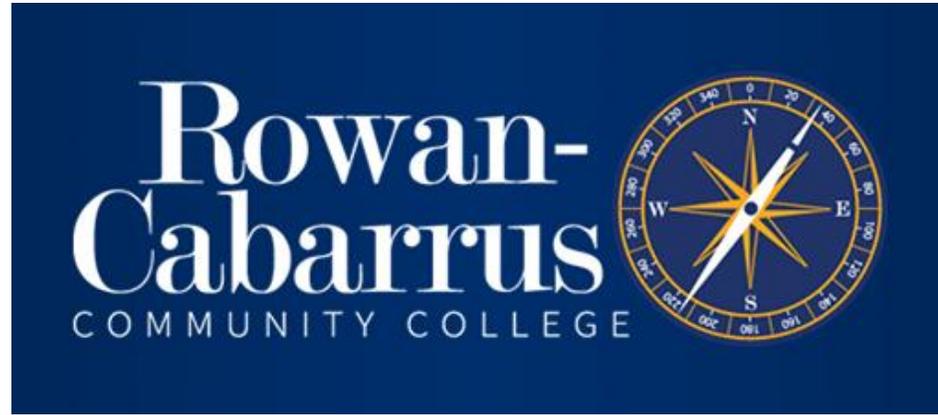
Meet Mary Jane Hartley



High School Equivalency/
ABE Lead Instructor

mary.hartley@rccc.edu



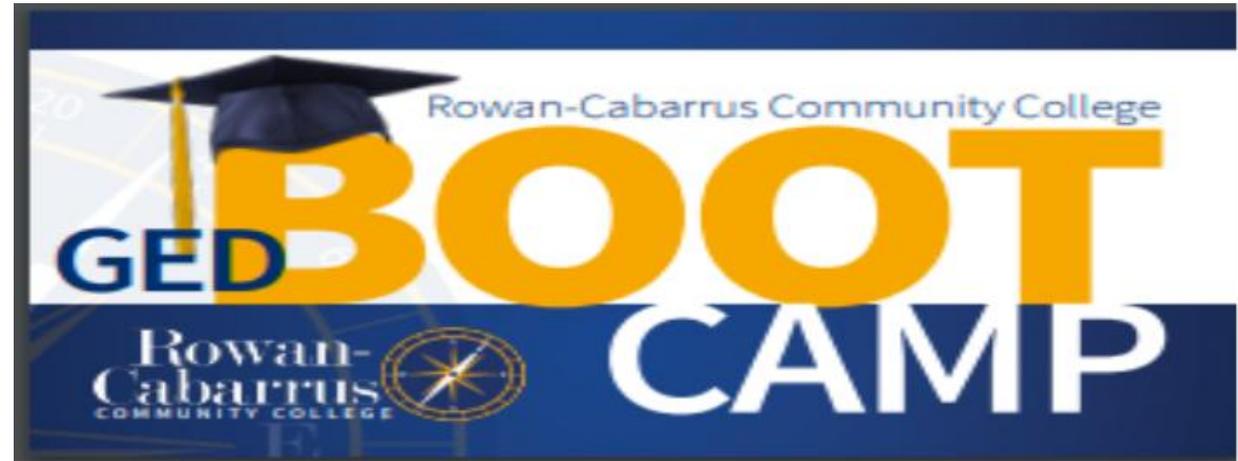


2 Week GED Boot Camp

2 Subjects per Week



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10 Students are selected

2 Instructors

Reading Lexile Level: 1200+

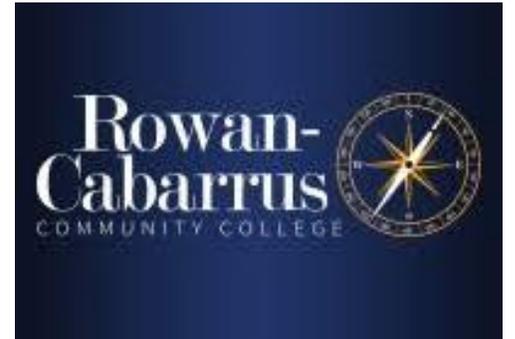
Math TABE Level D 3 or higher

Math CASAS Level D 4 or higher



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Schedule Overview



Week 1:

Days 1,2,3:

8:00-10:00 RLA

10:00-12:00 Social Studies

Day 4: Test Day

Day 5: Math

Practice Test/Review

Week 2:

Days 1,2,3:

8:00-10:00 Math

10:00-12:00 Science

Day 4: Test Day

Day 5 Posttest/Celebration

Week 1: Example of Course Content

Class Meets 4 hours per day Monday-Friday



Day 1:

8:00-10:00 RLA Major concepts taught Main idea, text structure, types of evidence.

10:00-12:00 Social Studies : Take GED Social Studies practice test.

Begin reviewing major components of fact/opinion, bias/propaganda/ Declaration of Independence.

Day 2:

8:00-10:00 RLA- Teach an Argumentative Writing Lesson.

Then take the GED RLA Practice Test

10:00-12:00 US Constitution/Branches of Government

Week 1: Example of Course Content



Day 3:

8:00-10:00 RLA: Review major literature/grammar concepts indicated by score reports.

10:00-12:00 SS: Economics, and major highlights of American History.

Day 4:

Review test taking skills/ Take the RLA and Social Studies Exams in the Testing Center

Day 5:

8:00-10:00 Take the GED Math Practice Test.

10:00-12:00 Begin reviewing major concepts of expressions/equations/ inequalities/word problems

Week 2: Example of Course Content



Day 1:

8:00-10:00 Math: Slope/ Quadratic Formula

10:00-12:00 Science: Take Science Practice Test

Day 2:

8:00-10:00 Math: Slope/ Geometry/

10:00-12:00 Science: Main Idea, Science Concepts/ Vocabulary/
Scientific Method Independent/ Dependent Variables

Week 2: Example of Course Content



Day 3:

8:00-10:00: Math Review Continues

10:00-12:00: Science: Science Chemical Equations/Physics

Day 4:

Test Day: Math and Science

Day 5:

TABE/ CASAS Posttest

Celebration and Next Steps Seminar with Academic Advising Team -
Navigation Station



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Things to Consider:

- Vouchers per each GED Ready Practice Test/Official Test-funding source. (Foundation)
- Networking with the Testing Center Admin/Proctor to schedule tests for special test sessions.
- Commitment of attendance for the 2 weeks.
- GED Boot Camp is offered in the Spring (March/April) before Graduation.
- Working with the Operations Support Specialist to enroll students (Membership/Contract)
- Marketing/Advertising
- Keep the energy high and learning fun!

Useful Resources:

GED Writing, Reading, Grammar New Readers Press Books

[Readworks.org](https://www.readworks.org)

YouTube Test Prep Champion

GED and Me App

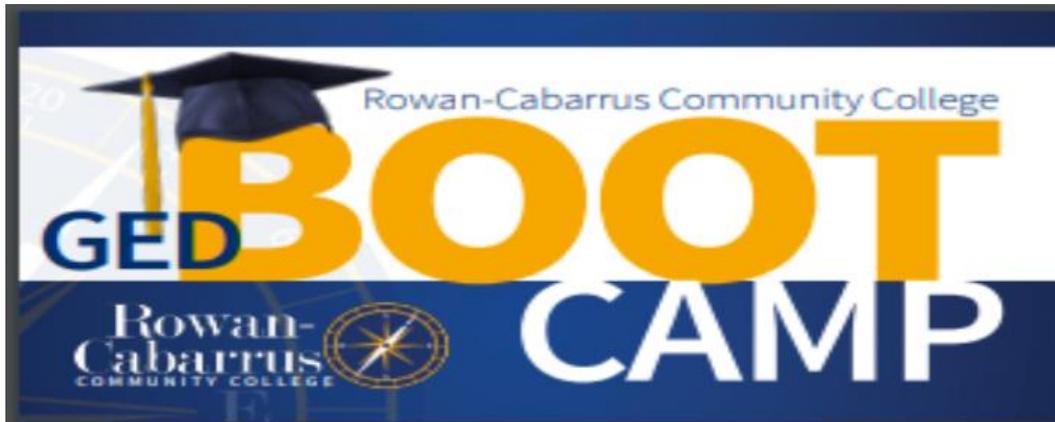
McGraw Hill GED Contemporary's Social Studies/Science

Salt & Light Math Crash Course

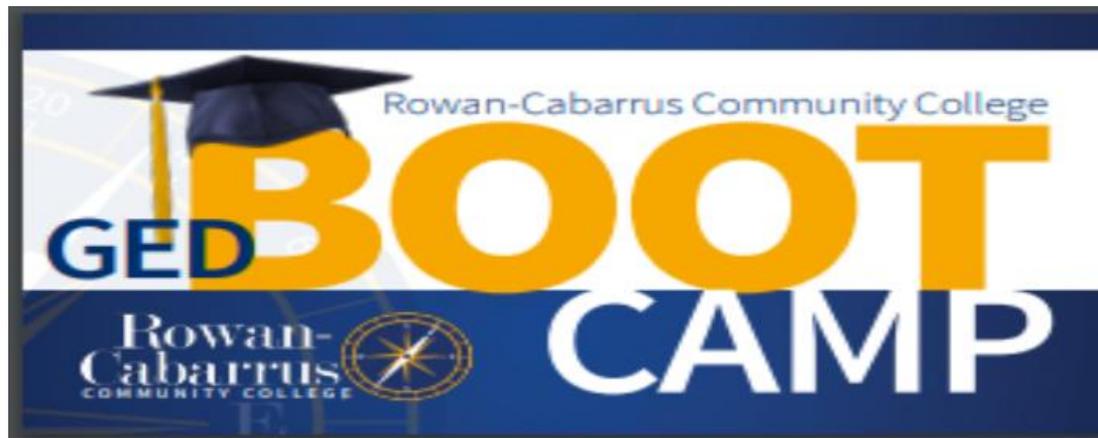
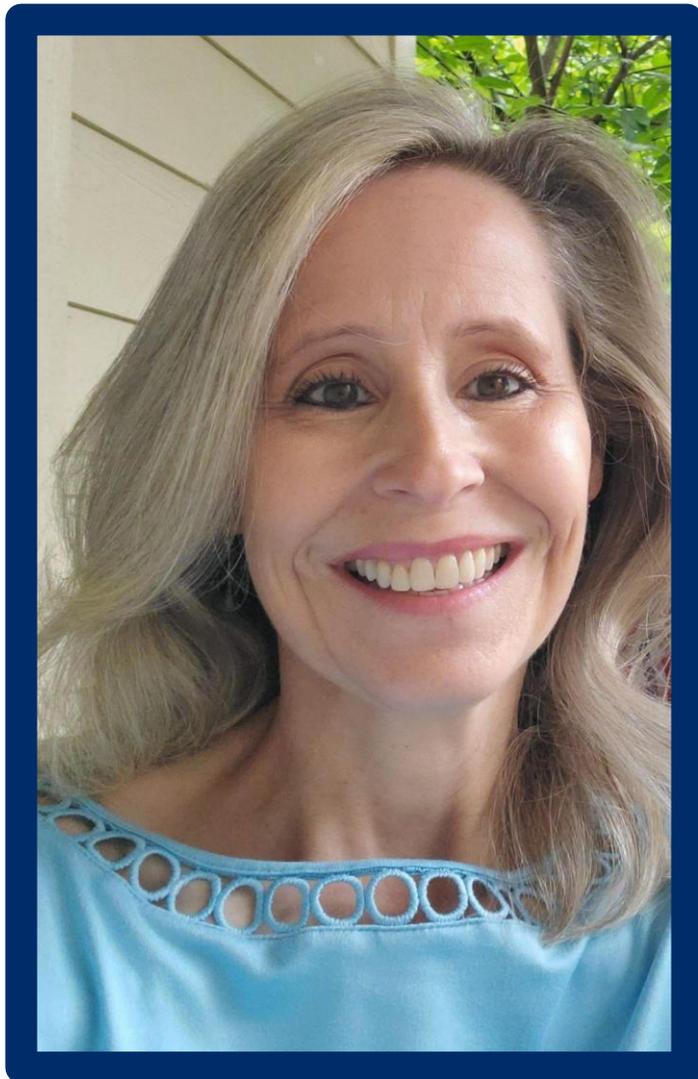
<https://www.gedmathcrashcourse.com/>

[Mathx.net](https://www.mathx.net)

[Math-drills.com](https://www.math-drills.com)



Mary Jane Hartley





Meet Veronica Powell

Associate Dean of Transitional
Studies and Prison Education

veronica.powell@sccnc.edu





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Recruitment

- Post Card
- Social Media
- Phone Calls

 **Southeastern**
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HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY BOOTCAMP

Earn your High School Equivalency diploma in less than a week!
If you have 2 parts or less left to complete the HiSET, this is for you!

TEST FEE \$0

June 19, 20, 24, 25, 26	July 17, 18, 22, 23, 24
9am-2pm	4pm-9pm
Test June 27	Test July 25

REGISTER NOW!  [sccnc.edu](https://www.sccnc.edu)  **910-788-6401**

Recruitment



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- Students who have 1 or 2 HiSET subtest left before completion
- FREE
 - Paid for through Mini Grant from our foundation (Incentive)
- Participate in 1 of 2 sessions

■ June

- 1 Week
- 9am-1pm
- 20 hours (Wednesday to Wednesday)
- HiSET exam the following Thursday

■ July

- 1 Week
- 4pm-9pm
- 20 hours (Wednesday to Wednesday)
- HiSET exam the following Thursday

Cohort Size, Success Rate, & Timing



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Cohort Size

- Examiner researches previous years for students
- 2 to 10 students in each cohort

Success Rate

- 75% to 100%

Timing

- Increase MSG and Completers before the end of the year

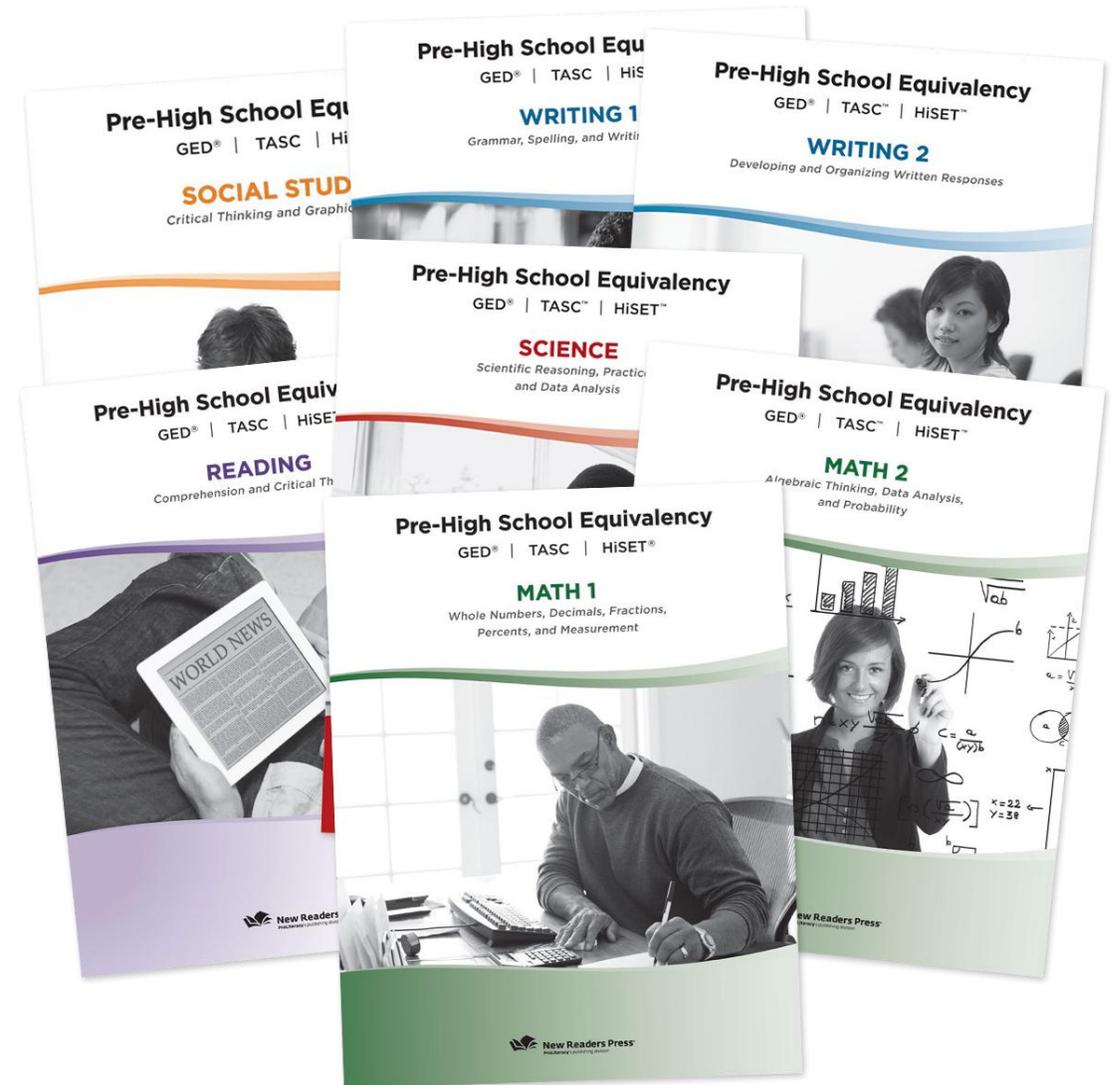


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Resources



**LEARNING
UPGRADE®**





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NRS Placement

Placement Test
CASAS



Placement Test
Alternative Placement

Veronica Powell



Meet Devonne Jimison



Devonne Jimison
College & Career Readiness Director

devonnej@southwesterncc.edu



HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA BOOTCAMP

BOOTCAMP DATES:
Franklin: Feb. 18 - Mar. 27 • Sylva: Apr. 6 - May 15
Monday - Friday • 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Class attendance mandatory.
Diploma earned after passing all tests.

Invite your family and friends to your
GRADUATION CEREMONY on July 9 at 6 p.m.

To register, call 828.339.4272

Southwestern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Fast-Track GED

Earn your High School
Equivalency (GED)
in just a month!

Dates:

Feb. 2 - Mar. 5

Mon. - Thurs. • 9A - Noon

Testing will be available weekly

» **To register, contact
Heather Stephan at
828.339.4272 or
h_stephan@SouthwesternCC.edu**

**or Scan the QR Code
to register.**



Class attendance is **mandatory**.
Diploma earned after passing all tests.

 **Southwestern**
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Fast Track



- Fast Track runs for 5 weeks, as a membership class.
- Class meets M-Th, 9:00 - noon, testing every Friday and additional days.
- One subject a week, 2 weeks of math.
- No limitation on who can be a part of the cohort.
- Students can choose between testing on HiSET or GED.
- We offer a lab in the afternoon 2 days a week for students to work with instructor one-on-one.

Resources



- GED Test Prep Plus by Kaplan
- GED Test Strategies, Practice and Review by Kaplan
- Writing for the GED Test - New Reader's Press
- Reading Drills - Edward B. Fry
- Essential Education

Success Rate



Since our reboot (2024), we have had 4 Fast Tracks (typically, 1 per semester)

- Cohort 1: 75% completion during Fast Track, 100% completed after more time in class and retesting.
- Cohort 2: 50% completion - attendance issues with this group.
- Cohort 3: 100% completion during Fast Track
- Cohort 4: 85% completion during Fast Track and 1 more completed after Fast Track, one still has one test.
- Began 5th cohort February 9th with 15 students in attendance.

Partnerships help with the success rate!



“Not finishing high school became my biggest regret and at the age of 33, I decided I would accomplish it to show my own kids the importance of education. You have to recognize your worth and fight for it, but that means being willing to do what it takes. It is up to you to move forward, and that is what Fast Track allowed for me. I’m so thankful for the opportunity and for the teacher that helped me make it to the finish line.”

Cage Jones:

Devonne Jimison



Meet Jenifer Bean



Jenifer Bean

Director of CCR Assessment and HSE

beanj@nccommunitycolleges.edu

A Few More Resources from the HSE Office



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GED:

- Educator Handbook (link [here](#))
- Performance Level Descriptors (link [here](#))
- High-Impact Indicators (link [here](#))

HiSET:

- Road Map for Adult Educators (link [here](#))
- Test at a Glance (TaaG; link [here](#))

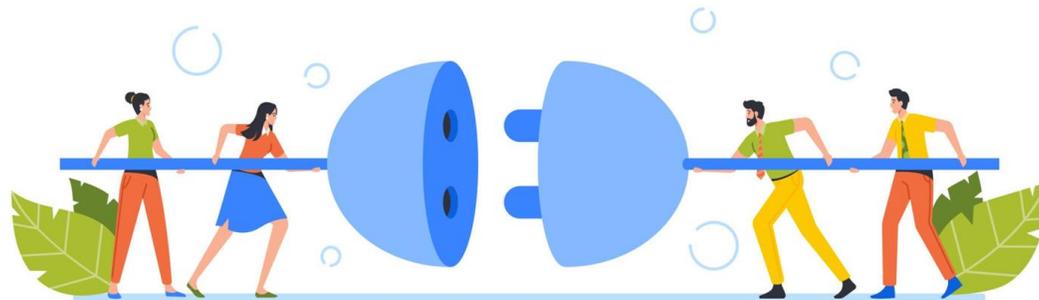


Student Recruitment



GED PrepConnect

- Tool for program recruitment and support
- Local learners who are seeking preparation for HSE exams
- Available in GED Manager
- November 2022 webinar (link [here](#))



Student Proficiency



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Practice Tests

- GED Ready
- HiSET Free, Paid, and Official Practice Tests

Score Reports

- Identify skill gaps for individuals and groups
- Level of readiness for the official exams



Technology Tools



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GED

- Prep products (GED Flash, GED Play)
- GED and Me app

HiSET

- CBT (Computer-Based Testing) Simulations



General Educator Resources



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- GED Educators and Admins page (link [here](#))
- HiSET Resources for Adult Educators page (link [here](#))



Jenifer Bean



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