

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE  
30 WEST GOVERNMENT STREET  
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32401  
850-769-8069

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF BAY, CALHOUN, GULF, HOLMES, JACKSON, WALTON,  
AND WASHINGTON

In an effort to promote public safety and reduce recidivism, the United States District Court in the Northern District of Florida is dedicated to providing employment and education assistance to those on pre-trial and post-conviction supervision.

## **GED**

If you do not have a high school diploma or general educational development certification (GED), you are encouraged to enroll in and take what is called a GED Prep Class. The following provided are the locations and information for the GED Prep Class sites in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Walton and Washington counties.

### **Bay County**

#### **Julie Harris**

Thomas P. Haney Technical Center  
3016 Highway 77  
Panama City, FL 32405  
Phone: (850) 767-5500

[View website](#)

### **Gulf County**

#### **Lori Price**

Gulf County Schools Adult Education  
150 Middle School Road  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456-2234  
Phone: (850) 229-6940

[View website](#)

### **Calhoun County**

#### **Ladona Kelley**

Calhoun County School District  
20859 Central Avenue E, Room G-20  
Blountstown, FL 32424  
Phone: (850) 674-8733 Ext. 22

[View website](#)

### **Okaloosa County**

#### **Melissa Shadix**

NWFS College  
100 College Blvd  
Niceville, Florida 32578  
Phone: (850) 729-6016

[View website](#)

### **Gulf County**

#### **Billy Hoover**

Gulf District Adult School  
East River Road & 2nd Street  
Wewahitchka, FL 32456  
Phone: (850) 639-9292

[View website](#)

### **Walton County**

#### **Julie Terrell**

Chautauqua Center & Adult  
General Education  
908 U.S. Highway 90 W  
Defuniak Springs, FL 32433  
Phone: (850) 200-4100

[View website](#)

**Washington County**

**Martha Compton**

CTE Programs & Adult General Ed.

757 Hoyt Street

Chipley, FL 32428

Phone: (850) 638-1180 Ext. 301

[View website](#)

**Washington County**

**Shirley Thompson**

Florida Panhandle Technical College

757 Hoyt Street

Chipley, FL 32428

Phone: (850) 638-1180 Ext. 306

[View website](#)

### **What is on the GED Test?**

The GED is a four-part exam. Candidates are tested in subject areas typically taught in traditional classrooms such as: reasoning through language arts, math, science, and social studies. Questions consist of multiple-choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, or essay formats. Because the exam requires more than seven hours of testing, many Florida centers offer it over two or three days. The test can also be taken one or two subjects at a time; passing all parts of the test results in a State of Florida High School Diploma.

### **How is the GED Scored and What Happens if I Don't Pass?**

Each section of the GED is scored the same in all states that offer the test. You can earn a score as high as 200 on each section and a score of 145 or higher is needed to pass in Florida. A score of 170 in each section is designated as an honors diploma and is considered an indication of college and career readiness. If you do not pass the GED the first time, you can retake all or part of the exam. Florida allows each section to be taken a maximum of three times per year in English. The test is also offered in Spanish, with a limit of two attempts per year.

### **Who is Eligible?**

According to the GED Testing Service, the GED may be given to those who are at least 18 years old if they are not enrolled in or have not graduated from, accredited high schools. You may be granted an age waiver if you are 16 or 17 and meet certain requirements. Proof of residency is not required to take the GED in Florida (but all test-takers who take the exam in Florida receive a Florida diploma even if they reside in another state).

### **What if I don't have the money to pay for these classes or for the actual GED Exam?**

You are encouraged to discuss this concern with your probation officer. There may be alternative programs or financial assistance available in extenuating circumstances. The need for financial assistance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.