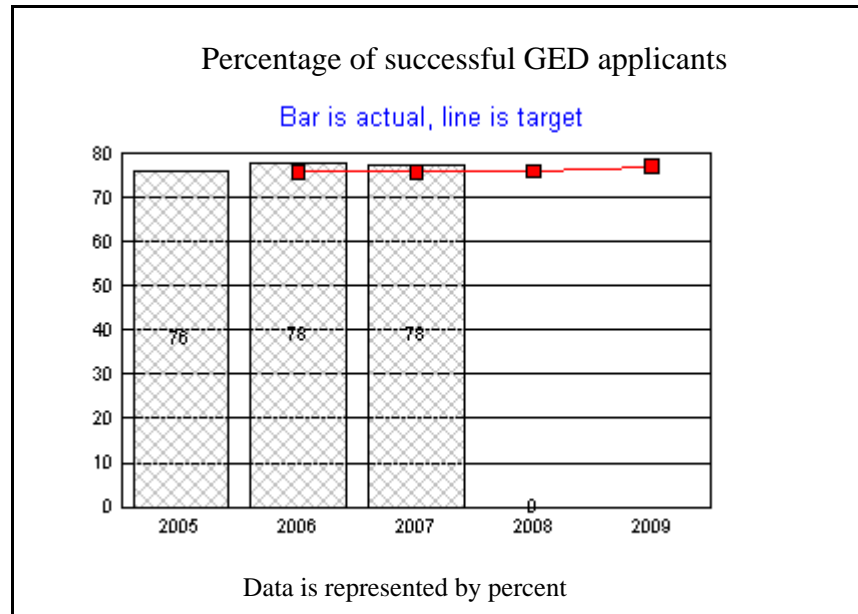


<b>KPM #1</b>	SUCCESSFUL GED APPLICANTS – Percentage of GED certificate applicants successful.	2006
<b>Goal</b>	Goal 1: Oregonians have strong literacy skills	
<b>Oregon Context</b>	OBM 23: High school completion	
<b>Data Source</b>	Annual Statistical Report from the GED Testing Service, a division of American Council on Education, and GEDScoring Service.	
<b>Owner</b>	CCWD Adult Basic Skills, 503-378-8648	



**1. OUR STRATEGY**

CCWD partners with GED testing centers and community college test preparation programs to increase awareness of and access to GED testing and preparation. Through marketing efforts and an informational website, CCWD ensures that potential GED applicants have access to the

information necessary to start on the path to earning a GED. The Department has successfully encouraged testing centers to expand to new locations and extend their days and hours of operations. CCWD also facilitates discussions between the testing centers and community college preparation programs to improve the connection between preparation and readiness for testing.

## **2. ABOUT THE TARGETS**

CCWD has established a goal of having GED applicants successfully complete all five tests within three years. Year to year targets, defined as the percentage of students who complete the goal, have been established. These targets, along with actual performance, are presented in the graph. Because data are not available prior to the three year period beginning in 2002, targets for 2006 and 2007 were set based on 2005 results. Targets for 2008 and 2009 are increased 1% from the prior year's target.

## **3. HOW WE ARE DOING**

Oregon's 2007 GED performance exceeds the target by 1.6 percentage points. The absolute number of successful GED applicants (7,821) is slightly higher than last year's number (7,792).

## **4. HOW WE COMPARE**

Although the construction of this particular measure is unique to Oregon the single-year pass rate for each state is reported annually by the GED Testing Service. Oregon's 2007 pass rate of 84.9% exceeds the national rate of 71.5%. Direct national comparisons can be misleading, however, as the GED testing population, GED screening processes, and test accessibility vary widely from the state.

## **5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS**

There are no known unique factors affecting the results.

## **6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE**

Among GED applicants who took their first GED exam between January 2002 and December 2003, more than 90% of those who earned a GED did so within one year of taking their first test. An important component of CCWD's future strategy will be to encourage preparation centers to offer "fast-track" programs to enable GED applicants who are nearly ready to pass the GED exams to rapidly prepare for and earn their GED. To increase the completion rate for applicants who do not earn their GED in their first year, CCWD will work with local test centers and preparation services to increase follow-up contact with applicants who have not passed all of their tests within one year.

In addition to these GED-specific strategies, CCWD is working towards incorporating the GED into its Career Pathways efforts. The focus of this process will be to strengthen the connection between GED testing centers and community colleges. The majority of GED applicants, those who do not utilize test preparation services, have little exposure to the opportunities available to them once they earn their GED. To encourage these applicants to think more about their next steps after earning their GED, CCWD will work with GED testing centers to integrate information about community colleges and career and education counseling into the pre-exam orientation. CCWD also intends to work with colleges and GED testing centers to expand recruitment by colleges from among GED applicants, by including a release form allowing colleges to contact GED applicants about college services.

#### **7. ABOUT THE DATA**

Reporting cycle: calendar year. Applicants are all individuals who took the first of five GED tests in a calendar year. Successful applicants are those who complete and pass all five of the GED tests and who are issued a GED certificate within three years of the month of their first test date.