



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Colleges of Chicago

**FROM:** GED Testing Service

**RE:** MWBE Waiver Explanation

**DATE:** June 29, 2023

It is the sincere desire of GED Testing Service LLC (GEDTS) to give an equitable opportunity to Minority- and Women-Owned Business concerns to compete and provide products and services under subcontract. Although we strive to achieve this goal, the companies available to provide the kind and level of services needed under the subcontract to fulfill our service obligations under this contract are very narrow. The GED® test program has been in existence for over 80 years and has served adult learners from all 50 US States and other territories. As such, consistency, fairness, and security in our test delivery, scoring processes, and services is paramount. While we are requesting a full waiver to City Colleges' requirements, we can share work that demonstrates our recent efforts to improve our outreach in this area.

Starting in 2022, GEDTS has committed to spend \$630,635 to MBE and WBE firms to help support our work in new states over the next five years. As of Q1 of 2023, we have spent \$240,171 to these firms and remain on track to meet our spending commitment. Because of the technical nature of our services and security involved in our work, it is not always feasible for us to subcontract out many areas of our work. Furthermore, outsourcing pieces of what we do would significantly increase our costs, which would impact our clients like City Colleges of Chicago.

GEDTS and Pearson VUE greatly appreciate the relationship we have had with City Colleges for many years. In fact, we have conducted numerous in-person and remote trainings for City Colleges over the past few years and remain committed to that work. And while we are requesting a waiver to City Colleges requirements, we also will remain committed to partnering with MBE and WBE firms wherever we can in the future. We appreciate your consideration.

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