

It Took Five Years

When Ashleigh Wright completed the last of four subject areas, in math, on her GED® test she believed she didn't pass. After taking the test, she looked on-line for her score which was 145. A bit frustrated, she thought that she needed five more points to pass.

Then she received a call six months later from her mom telling her that her high school diploma had arrived in the mail from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She couldn't believe it and asked her mom to prove it by sending her a photo of the diploma.

She later learned that the GED® rules had changed from 150 points to 145 points to pass.

After dropping out of school after 10th grade, it took five years for Ashleigh to get her high school diploma.

She enrolled in Philadelphia Job Corps and was there for one year, taking extra on-line classes to help her to prepare to get her high school diploma. In 2010 she had a daughter, Ky-Leigh, and took classes at People's Emergency Center (PEC) and completed and passed two of the subject tests, language arts and social studies. When PEC was no longer able to continue their adult education classes, she went to a program at Temple University, called the "Youth Employment Project" and completed and passed the science test.

That left her with the most difficult subject for her to master - math. Ashleigh was able to come to back to PEC, under the Center for Literacy's Family Literacy Program, for math classes. She had another child, a boy, Ashton, who is now one-year old. "My teacher, Mary Wilson, made sure that I didn't give up on my education even though I wanted to," she said.

Mary admires Ashleigh and still keeps in touch with her. "She overcame a lot of obstacles to get her GED®." Mary began her career at CFL as a volunteer tutor and later became a CFL teacher.

Ashleigh now works 30 plus hours a week at a fast food restaurant in North Philadelphia in addition to taking classes at an entry-level nurse aide program. Her career goal is to become a registered nurse and continue her family's legacy in healthcare. "My mom, sister and aunt are nurses and another aunt is a doctor. I want to join them."

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania now allows you to take the HiSET® Exam instead of the GED® for a high school diploma. CFL prepares learners for both tests.