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Maryland High School Diploma Options for Adults

Maryland Department of Labor
Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL)
Adult Education and Literacy Services
Maryland Rehabilitation Association Conference 2022
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Presentation Objectives

- Describe the three pathways in which adults who have withdrawn from high school before graduating can earn a Maryland High School Diploma
- Describe available accommodations in each diploma pathway
- Discuss how counselors can assist clients who do not have a high school diploma

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Mission

Division of Workforce Development & Adult Learning

- To ensure businesses have the skilled workforce they need to be competitive in today's environment as well as help people get jobs by working to better serve the unemployed, jobless veterans, newly dislocated workers, trade-impacted workers, New Americans, ex-offenders, low-wage workers, and individuals with barriers to employment.

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Three Unique Diploma Options

GED®, NEDP®, The Adult High School Program

- Individualized approach & commitment to success
- Informed decision making:
    - Level of preparedness,
    - Awareness of the process, eligibility, and requirements,
    - Time constraints,
    - Various accommodations,
    - Finding what works best for the individual learner

All pathways lead to Maryland High School Diploma.

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Equity and Access

- Serving all adult learners
- Addressing barriers and increasing access to education
- Helping achieve goals
- Access to Maryland High School Diploma options
- Increasing opportunities for employment, training, continuing education, financial security, and personal growth

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High School Equivalency - What Does That Mean?

Individuals accessing any of the three pathways to a Maryland High School Diploma must be able to demonstrate high school level skills and competencies by either:

- completing projects,
- passing subject-matter tests, or
- passing high school courses

The Maryland High School Diploma earned through these pathways is signed by the President of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor.

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GED: A Pathway to a Maryland High School Diploma

Molly Dugan
HSE Supervisor
Adult Education and Literacy Services
Maryland Department of Labor

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GED: What is Tested?

There are four content modules aligned with College and Career Readiness Standards to assess high school equivalency on the GED test.

- Reasoning through Language Arts: (150 minutes with a break)
- Mathematical Reasoning: (115 minutes)
- Science: (90 minutes)
- Social Studies (70 minutes)

Modules may be taken one at a time or more than one at an appointment. It is not recommended to take all four modules at one appointment. Testing may be in person at an authorized test center or by Online Proctored (OP) testing (eligibility required for OP).

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GED at a Glance

- Maryland residency requirement? YES
- Age requirement? YES
- Identification requirement? YES
- Subsidy for cost of tests? YES
- Accommodations available? YES, Testers must provide documentation of disability.
- Testing in Spanish? YES, three modules. Maryland requires the Reasoning through Language Arts module to be taken in English.
- Testing for Homeschooled students? YES
- Testing for someone with a high school diploma? NO
- Testing for a currently enrolled K-12 student? NO, Except for individuals on certificate path
- Test preparation required? NO

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Age & Enrollment Requirements

- Must be 18+ years of age per the Maryland Compulsory Attendance Law.
- Candidates who are under the age of 19:
    - Officially withdrawn

    - Proof of withdrawal
- Homeschool students:
    - Can test at 16 or older
    - Need verification of enrollment by the Home Instruction Office or Program.

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Identification Requirements to Test

To be admitted to an authorized GED test center or to test via Online Proctored Testing, Maryland requires one of the following forms of identification. There are no ID waivers.

- Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA):
    - Current (not expired) MD driver's license
    - learner's permit OR
    - Current MVA issued Identification card OR
- Active duty military dependent's card:
    - This is not accepted for Online Proctored Testing OR
- A Passport or other government issued document.
    - And proof of Maryland residency (lease agreement, bank statement, utility bill, etc.)

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GED Accommodations

GED® is committed to providing students with full access to the GED® test for anyone with disabilities and support the intention of the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA). Test accommodations are considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Extra testing time
- Extra Breaks
- Separate testing room

On-Screen

- Screen Color Combinations Guide
- Change Text Size
- Highlight Text Guide

ged.com/about_test/accommodations

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Documentation

Download GED Documentation Guidelines for:

- Learning and Cognitive Disorders (LCD)
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Psychological and Psychiatric Disorders (EPP)
- Physical Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions (PCH)

Before submitting a request, provide these guidelines to your doctor or psychologist to evaluate.
ged.com/about_test/accommodations
Frequently asked questions: ged.com/wp-content/uploads/accommodations_faqs.pdf

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Requesting Accommodations

1. Create a GED account at www.ged.com
2. Answer the requested questions
3. Click "Yes" (3.1) if you would like to test with accommodations after reading the description
4. Complete the "My Accommodations" request pages

5. Upload supporting documentation
6. Review request and submit electronically

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The Review Process

- It can take up to 30 days for your request to be reviewed, but note you can check on the status of your request by clicking on the link provided in the emails you receive from the Accommodations team. Or, you can also check the status of your request by signing into your GED® account and clicking on the "My Accommodations" link. (16.1)
- You may appeal an accommodations decision if you're unhappy with the outcome. Simply click on the "Request an Appeal" button in the Accommodations System to start the appeal process. Please include additional documentation along with the appeal form (i.e. letter from a doctor, report, etc) to review if possible.

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Cost/Subsidy/Retesting

The Department of Labor subsidizes the cost of the first attempt of each module.

- For in person testing at a testing center:
  - The fee for the tester is $11.25 with the subsidy applied for the first attempt per module.
  - Two retests cost $10.00 each; a fourth attempt is $30.00 (no subsidy).
- For Online Proctored testing:
  - The fee for the tester is $17.25 with the subsidy applied for the first attempt per module.
  - All retests cost $36.00 (no subsidy).
- Testers may attempt each module only three times per calendar year.

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Recommended: Adult Education Preparation Program

Adults who do not have a high school diploma should be encouraged and referred to enroll in a WIOA Title II grantee adult education program. (Individuals must be 18 or older and officially withdrawn to be eligible for these programs.)

Benefits:

- Assessment of current skill level and GED® test readiness in each content area.
- Varied methods of instruction, resources and tools geared to adult students.
- Flexible class schedules, online classes, open or rolling enrollment,
- Progress reports and targeted assistance.
- Dedicated, knowledgeable, understanding staff and instructors.
- Study materials may be free, practice tests may be free.
- Academic, personal, and career/workforce counseling.

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Credential

- Passers of all four content area tests earn a Maryland High School Diploma jointly signed by the President of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor.
- Adult Education Programs host a recognition ceremony each year to celebrate the accomplishments of their students.

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Is GED For You?

GED Test takers are:

- High-stakes test-taker
- Familiar with the GED Test
- Familiar with content areas for GED Test
- Seeking a quick turnaround by preparing effectively

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National External Diploma Program (NEDP®)

Laura Ostrowski
Education Program Specialist
Adult Education and Literacy Services

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Agenda

- What is NEDP®?
- Eligibility Criteria
- Maryland NEDP®
- Program Design
- Success Stories

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The Beginning

The 1972 Ford Foundation Study: Syracuse Research Corp.

- Reasons adults not earning diploma through existing high school completion programs?
    - Adult education class schedules are not compatible with adult responsibilities
    - Content does not relate to real life experiences
    - Multiple choice, paper-pencil test format is too limiting
- NEDP launched in 1975 in New York
- Adopted by the USDoE in 1979
- First NEDP Diploma Issued in MD - 1979
- Acquired by CASAS – Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System - 2006

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NEDP® Jurisdictions

104 agencies in 9 states!

1. District of Columbia
2. Virginia
3. Connecticut
4. Rhode Island
5. New Mexico
6. West Virginia
7. New York
8. California
9. Maryland

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What is the National External Diploma Program (NEDP)®?

Ten Content Areas

- Competency-based
- Applied performance assessment system
- Assesses the high school level skills of adults
- Participants demonstrate their ability
- Series of performance tasks
- Evaluates reading, writing, math and work readiness skills in life and work contexts

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More About NEDP®

70 Generalized Competencies & One Individualized Competency

- Aligns to College & Career Readiness Standards
- Higher order thinking skills
- Utilizes web-based technology
- Flexible scheduling
- Active participation and self-directed learning
- Appropriate for ESL learners; offered in English only
- Accommodation available

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Eligibility

- 18 years+
- No high school diploma
- Not currently enrolled in high school
- Not required to be enrolled in classes
- Academic mastery at 9th grade level
- Work independently
- Self-directed
- Basic computer skills helpful

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NEDP® in Maryland

- Consolidated adult education and family literacy program
- Over 150 (NEDP®) average high school diplomas/year
- 10 local programs
- Diplomas/transcripts
- Most programs offer program at no or low cost. Programs can charge up to $225.
- Complete program 6-12 months

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Maryland NEDP® Programs

- Chesapeake College
- Prince George's Community College
- South Baltimore Learning Center
- Community College of Baltimore County

- Hagerstown Community College
- Howard County Library System
- Anne Arundel Community College
- College of Southern Maryland
- Howard Community College
- Wor-Wic Community College

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NEDP® Program Design

- Diagnostics
  - Math, reading, and writing assessments
  - Self-assessment of career interests and skills, including College & Career Competency
- Generalized Assessment
  - Competencies embedded in contextualized performance task areas, including household budgets, community participation, healthcare services, etc.
  - One College & Career Competency: Job Experience, Occupational Verification, Specialized Skill, Advanced Academics, Workforce Skills Certification
- Post-Task Assessment
  - Opportunity to demonstrate items previously not demonstrated with 100% accuracy
- Portfolio Review
- High School Diploma!

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Accommodations

- In accordance with the ADA Amendments of 2008, the NEDP® offers accommodations for those with disabilities. Assessment accommodations provide an opportunity for all clients to demonstrate their true skills and ability.
- To receive accommodations for the NEDP®, you need to be enrolled in an agency which offers the NEDP®.

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Requesting Accommodations

- The agency coordinator will then submit to CASAS an NEDP® Request for Assessment Accommodations Form, based on documentation of disability submitted by you (the client) to the NEDP® local agency coordinator.
- The agency coordinator and the applicant requesting the accommodation must sign the NEDP® Request for Assessment Accommodations Form and submit to CASAS before the review process can begin.

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Additional Information

- Accommodation Requests must be submitted prior to beginning the diagnostic testing phase of the NEDP®. The accommodations apply to the Diagnostic Phase as well as the Generalized Assessment Phase.
- Accommodations for learning disabilities can include the following:
  - extra time
  - simple four-function calculator
  - break during testing session
  - computer-based testing screen reader

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Is NEDP® For You?

Who would be a good candidate for NEDP®?

- Someone with test-taking anxiety
- Someone who can work independently
- Someone who needs flexibility (when they complete their assignments, etc.)
- All of the above

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Adult High School Program

Perketer Tucker, Director
Adult Education and Literacy Services

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Adult High School Program

An alternative pathway for adults 21+ years old to earn a Maryland High School diploma based on earning high school credit.
Authority/Oversight: Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Labor

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History

- 2016
  - The Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept created and assembled
  - Study and research adult high school models
  - Provide recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly
- 2017
  - 2017 legislative session
  - Open to multiple models
  - 3rd diploma pathway for adults

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Eligible AHS Operator

- Registered private nonprofit organization (Maryland)
- Experience and measure success providing education services to adults, including industry certification and job placement.
- Experience providing education or workforce development to adult learners who:
  - Limited by education disadvantages
  - Disability
  - Criminal record
  - Barriers to employment opportunities
- Partnership of 2 or more to meet qualifications
- Physical site

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Operator Requirements

- Curriculum aligned to MD College and Career Ready Standards
- Remediation Instruction
- Students with disabilities/accommodations

- English language learners
- Individualized wraparound services
- Partnerships/programs
- Physical site

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Locations

- Maximum of 6 adult high schools can be approved to operate
    1. The South Baltimore Adult High School
    2. The Excel Center
    3. .
    4. .
    5. .
    6. .
- The adult high school must operate within a city/county that has a high school graduation rate that is lower than the state average for high school graduation.
- Rural location/Urban location

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South Baltimore Adult High School

- Partnership between Elev8, Baltimore City Community College and the Cherry Hill Development Corporation.
- Located in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City, South Baltimore.
- Opened the doors during the pandemic, Summer 2021. Offer virtual classes, enroll students from other parts of the state in addition to Baltimore City.
- Expect their first graduate this year which will be the first graduate of the Adult High School Program.

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Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake

- The Excel Center by Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake is a model that various regional Goodwill Industries have replicated.
- Flagship school is located in Indianapolis, IN
- Model may have to be tailored to meet the jurisdiction requirements
- Plan to open their HS Summer 2023
- Located on Redwood Avenue in downtown Baltimore
- All Excel Center Schools require onsite child care

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- Academics +
    - High School Credit (21 min) - Maryland Graduation Requirements
    - English
    - Mathematics
    - Science
    - Social Studies
    - Technology Education
    - Fine Arts
    - Health Education
    - Physical Education

    - Other credits
    - Service Learning Requirement
    - Graduation Assessments
- Individualized services

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College and Career Preparation

- Post-secondary education and/or industry recognized training and certification
    - Community college
    - Registered apprenticeship
    - Certified training program
    - In demand careers/industries
- Advisory and coaching services for students to support:
    - Career pathways in high need and growth industry sectors
    - Effective transitions into postsecondary education and industry credentialing opportunities

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Is The Adult High School For You?

Academics:

- Few classes/credits
- Traditional academic classes
- Accelerated coursework
- Online coursework

Individualized/Wraparound

- Need assistance addressing challenges

Workforce/Career

- Exploring college and career pathway options
- Coaching to transition to postsecondary education/career training

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Accommodations

Each adult high school is expected to provide reasonable accommodations for students who request such based on appropriate documentation.

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Overview

GED Test

- Age: 18+
- Title II Funded: No
- Title II Prep: YES
- Content/Format: High Stakes Assessment
- Completion Time: 7.75 hours (Test time)
- Existence: 1940’s

NEDP

- Age: 18+
- Title II Funded: YES
- Title II Prep: YES
- Content/Format: Competency-based (demonstrated & applied performance)

- Completion Time: 6+ months
- Existence: 1970s

ADULT HIGH SCHOOL

- Age: 21+
- Title II Funded: NO
- Title II Prep: NO
- Content/Format: Maryland HS Graduation Requirements
- Completion Time: Depends
- Existence: 2017

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Final Questions?

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Thank you for attending our session!

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