

Maryland Department of Labor

**Division of Workforce Development
and Adult Learning (DWDAL)
Adult Education and Literacy Services**

*Maryland Rehabilitation Conference 2024
Maryland High School Diploma Options for Adults*

May 17, 2024



Disclaimer

The content or opinions expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect or present the views, positions, or policies of the Maryland Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply an official endorsement by the Maryland Department of Labor.



© Maryland Department of Labor, 2024.
These materials may not be reproduced
without the Department's written permission.

For program funding details in compliance with the Stevens Amendment, please visit:
<http://labor.maryland.gov/employment/dwdalfederalprogramfunding.shtml>.

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- Describe the three pathways in which adults who have withdrawn from high school before graduating can earn a Maryland High School Diploma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

Mission

Division of Workforce Development & Adult Learning

- Our mission is to ensure businesses have the **skilled workforce** they need to compete in the global marketplace, and to build a strong pipeline of qualified workers by reaching jobseekers – **especially individuals with barriers to employment** – with the workforce system’s employment and training resources.

Three Unique Diploma Options

- **GED® Test**
- **NEDP®**
- **The Adult High School Program**

All pathways lead to Maryland High School Diploma!

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

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.

GED: High School Equivalency

*GED: A Pathway to a Maryland High School
Diploma*

*Laura Ostrowski
GED Administrator™ & Adult High School
Program Supervisor
Adult Education and Literacy Services
Maryland Department of Labor*

GED: What is Tested?

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

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*

Test preparation required? NO

*Exception for individuals on certificate path

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.

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)

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

https://ged.com/about_test/accommodations/

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.

https://ged.com/about_test/accommodations/

Frequently asked questions:

https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/accommodations_faqs.pdf

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

The Review Process

- Requests may take 30 days for review.
- Check on the status:
 - Updates the Accommodations team
 - GED® account - "My Accommodations"
- You may appeal an accommodations decision.

Cost/Subsidy/Retesting - In Person

- The fee for the tester is \$14.25 with the subsidy applied for the first attempt per module.
- Two retests cost \$10.00 each, currently; a fourth attempt is \$36.00 (no subsidy).

Cost/Subsidy/Retesting - Online

- The fee for the tester is \$14.25 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 (online or in-person).

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.*

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.

Is GED For You?

GED Test takers are:

High-stakes test-takers

Familiar with the GED Test

Familiar with content areas for GED Test

Seeking a quick turnaround by preparing effectively

The National External Diploma Program® (NEDP®)

Echo Salisbury

Education Program Specialist

Adult Education and Literacy Services

Agenda

- ❖ What is NEDP®?
- ❖ Eligibility Criteria
- ❖ Maryland NEDP®
- ❖ Program Design

The Beginning, Page One

- ❖ 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

The Beginning, Page Two

- ❖ 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

NEDP® Jurisdictions

District of
Columbia

Virginia

Connecticut

Rhode Island

New Mexico

West Virginia

New York

California

Maryland

104
agencies in
9 states!

What is National External Diploma Program[®] (NEDP[®])?

- ❖ 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

Ten
Content
Areas

More about NEDP®

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Accommodations available

70 Generalized
Competencies +
One Individualized
Competency

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

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

Maryland NEDP® Programs



NEDP® Program Design

❖ Diagnostics



❖ Generalized Assessment



❖ Post-Task Assessment



❖ Portfolio Review



❖ High School Diploma!

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[®].

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.

Additional Information

Accommodations for learning disabilities can include the following:

- extra time
- simple four-function calculator
- break during testing session
- computer-based testing screen reader

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

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 Department of Education and
Maryland Department of Labor

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

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

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

Locations

- Maximum of 6 adult high schools can be approved to operate
 1. The South Baltimore Adult High School
 2. The Excel Center
- 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

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.

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
- Located on Redwood Avenue in downtown Baltimore
- All Excel Center Schools require onsite child care

Academics +

- High School Credit (22 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

College and Career Preparation

- Post secondary education and/or industry recognized credential
 - Community college
 - Registered apprenticeship
 - Certified training program
 - In-demand careers/industries
- Advisory and coaching services

Is The Adult High School For You?

Academics?

Individualized/Wraparound?

Workforce/Career?

Accommodations

Each adult high school is expected to provide reasonable accommodation(s) for students who request such based on appropriate documentation.

Overview

	AGE	Title II Funded	Title II Prep	Content/Format	Completion Time	Existence
GED TEST	18+	NO	YES	High Stakes Assessment	7.75 hrs (Test time)	1940's
NEDP	18+	YES	YES	Competency-based (demonstrated & applied performance)	6 mos +	1970's
ADULT HIGH SCHOOL	21+	NO	NO	MD HS Graduation Requirements	Depends	2017

Questions?

Thank you for attending our session!

Laura Ostrowski,
laura.ostrowski@maryland.gov

Echo Salisbury,
echo.salisbury@maryland.gov

Division of Workforce Development & Adult Learning
Maryland Department of Labor
Adult Education and Literacy Services