

SLIDE 1:

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 Conference 2024

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SLIDE 2:

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SLIDE 3:

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- Describe the three pathways in which adults who have withdrawn from high school before graduating can earn a Maryland High School Diploma.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

SLIDE 4:

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.

SLIDE 5:

Three Unique Diploma Options

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

All pathways lead to Maryland High School Diploma!

SLIDE 6: 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

SLIDE 7: 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.

SLIDE 8: 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

SLIDE 9: GED: What is Tested?

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

SLIDE 10: 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* *Exception for individuals on certificate path
- Test preparation required? NO

SLIDE 11:

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.

SLIDE 12:

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 OR
- 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.)

SLIDE 13:

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

SLIDE 14:

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

SLIDE 15:

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.

SLIDE 16:

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.

SLIDE 17:

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).

SLIDE 18:

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).

SLIDE 19:

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.)

SLIDE 20:

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.

SLIDE 21:

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

SLIDE 22:

The National External Diploma Program® (NEDP®)

Echo Salisbury
Education Program Specialist
Adult Education and Literacy Services

SLIDE 23:

Agenda

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

SLIDE 24:

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.

SLIDE 25:

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

SLIDE 26:

NEDP® Jurisdictions

104 agencies in 9 states!

- District of Columbia
- Virginia
- Connecticut
- Rhode Island
- New Mexico
- West Virginia
- New York
- California
- Maryland

SLIDE 27:

What is 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

SLIDE 28:

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
- Accommodations available

SLIDE 29:

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

SLIDE 30:

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

SLIDE 31:

Maryland NEDP® Programs

- South Baltimore Learning Center
- Hagerstown Community College
- College of Southern Maryland
- Wor-Wic Community College
- Community College of Baltimore County
- Howard Community College
- Chesapeake College
- Prince George's Community College
- Howard County Library System
- Anne Arundel Community College

SLIDE 32:

NEDP® Program Design

- Diagnostics
- Generalized Assessment
- Post-Task Assessment
- Portfolio Review
- High School Diploma!

SLIDE 33: 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®.

SLIDE 34: 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.

SLIDE 35: 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

SLIDE 36: 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

SLIDE 37: 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

SLIDE 38: 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

SLIDE 39: 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

SLIDE 40: 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

SLIDE 41: 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

SLIDE 42: 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.

SLIDE 43:

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

SLIDE 44:

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

SLIDE 45:

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

SLIDE 46:

Is The Adult High School For You?

Academics?

Individualized/Wraparound?

Workforce/Career?

**SLIDE 47:
Accommodations**

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

**SLIDE 48:
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

**SLIDE 49:
Questions?**

**SLIDE 50:
Thank you for attending our session!**

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