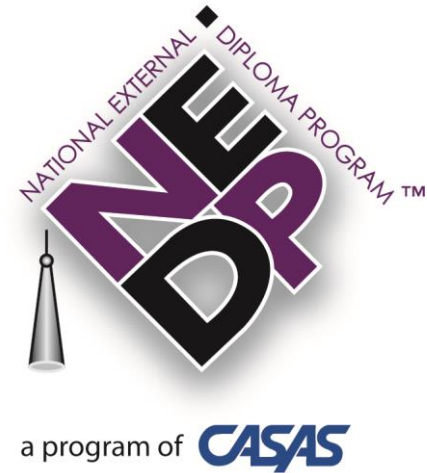


The National External Diploma Program (NEDP) An Overview



May 2013

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Introduction to NEDP



- The National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is a competency-based, applied performance assessment system that expects youth and adults to demonstrate their abilities in a series of simulations that parallel job and life situations.
- Participants are evaluated against a criterion of excellence instead of by comparison to others, take responsibility for acquiring instruction by using existing resources, and achieve **mastery** of all required competencies, plus an occupational, or specialized skill.

History of NEDP



1972: Ford Foundation/SRC Study Results

- Adult education class schedules were not compatible with adult responsibilities
- Content did not relate to real life experiences
- Multiple choice, paper-pencil test formats too limiting

1975: NEDP debuted in Syracuse, New York

1979: NEDP validated by the USDOE for national dissemination

2006: CASAS acquired NEDP with support from New York, Maryland, and Connecticut

The Current NEDP

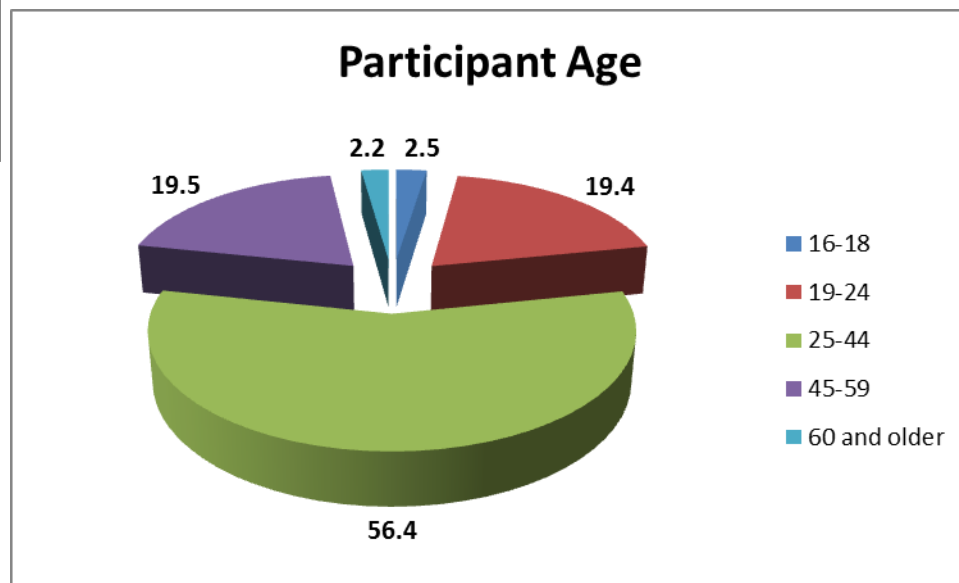
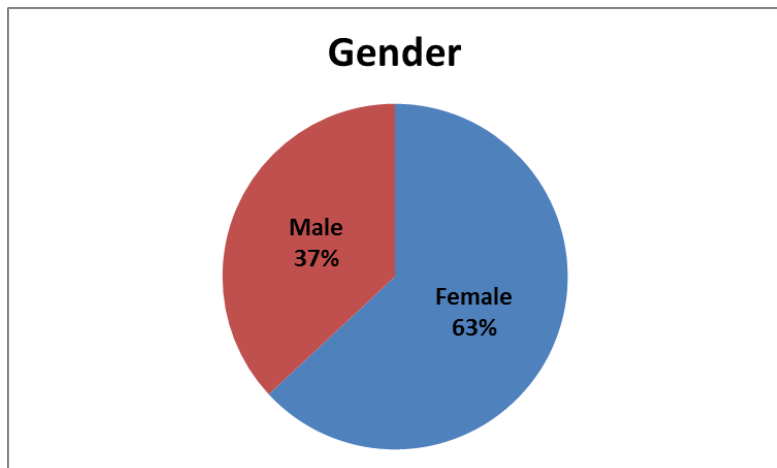


- Successful 36-year history
- NEDP implemented at 74 sites in 7 states
- 2006 – 2011 participation:
 - Served an average of 4,471 clients each year
 - 8,709 total graduates



Program Year	Total Served
2006-2007	4,546
2007-2008	4,149
2008-2009	4,406
2009-2010	4,561
2010-2011	4,695

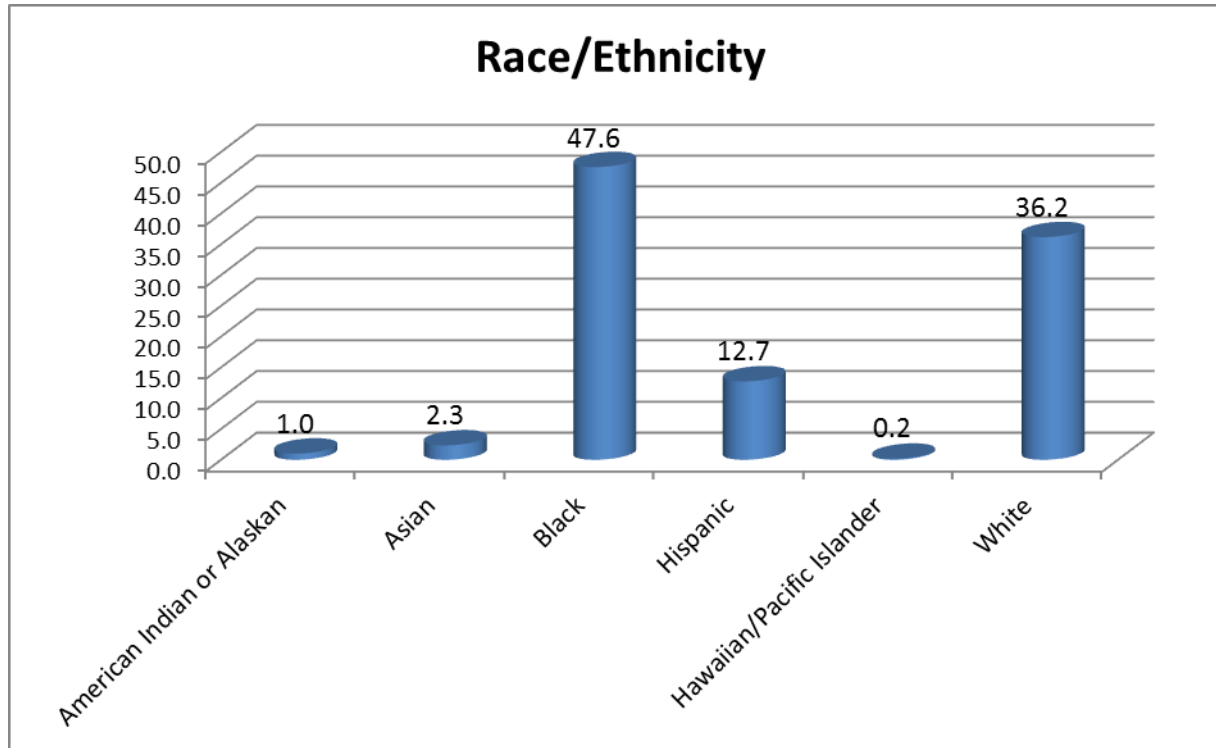
Client Demographics (2010-2011)



Attracting Underserved Populations



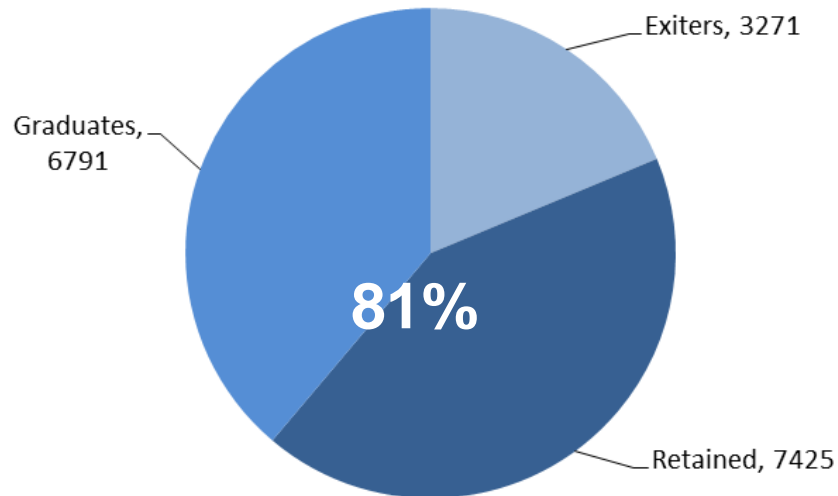
- Approximately 48% of clients are African American/Black, typically underserved in other high school diploma programs



Higher Retention Rates

2006 – 2010

81% Graduation/Retention Rate *



* *Gopalakrishnan 2008*

Unique Characteristics of NEDP



- Performance-based
- Life and work skills focus
- Self-paced, flexible, and not timed
- Appropriate for ESL and special needs learners
- Uses a competency-based approach
- Encourages learner self-sufficiency and active engagement
- Offers a locally or state-awarded traditional high school diploma

NEDP Competencies



- NEDP Competencies highlight life and work skills required for successful transitions to post-secondary education and careers:
 - Media Literacy
 - Information and Communication Technology
 - Community Participation
 - Financial Literacy
 - Twenty-First Century Workplace

What Do Graduates Like about NEDP?



- “Hands-on” approach
- Relevance to tasks in everyday life
- Active participation and self directed learning
- Advisor and Assessor relationships
- Flexibility to work at own pace
- Program structure of clear phases and weekly appointments
- Multiple opportunities to demonstrate competencies
- Regular feedback and progress reports
- Encouragement of self-confidence and self-worth



Key Components of NEDP



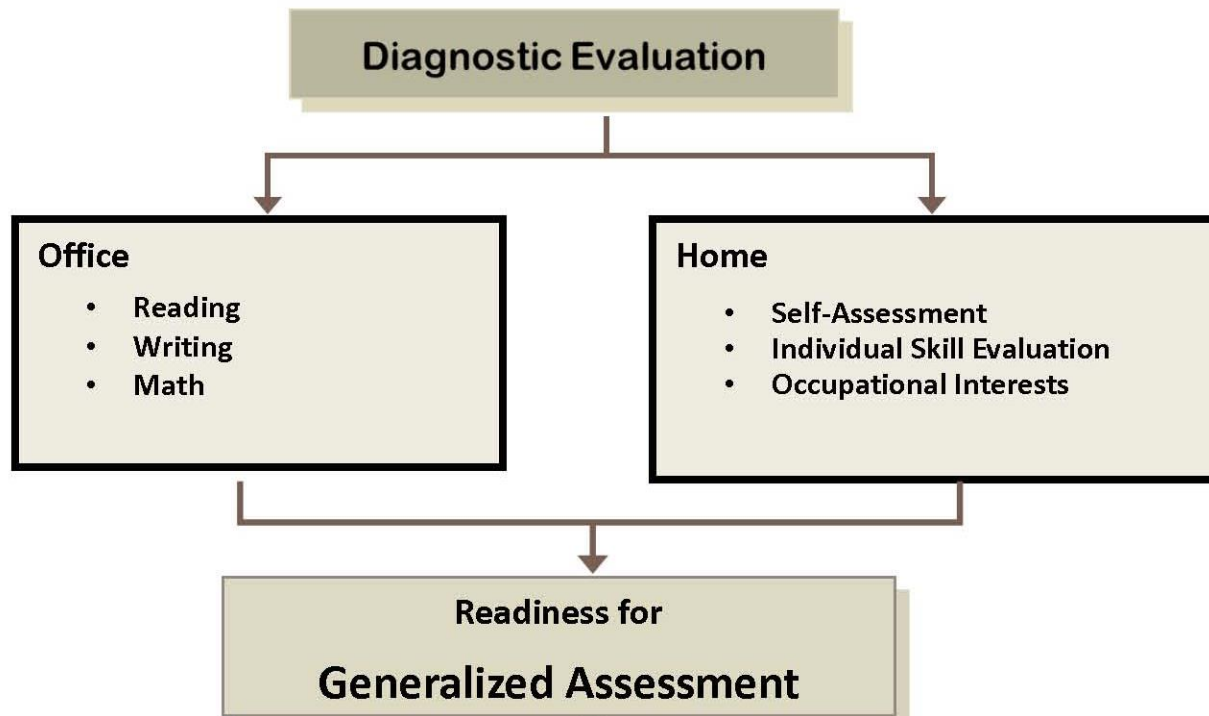
- Diagnostics
 - Math, reading, and writing assessments
 - Self-assessment of career interests and skills
- Generalized Assessment
 - Competencies embedded in five applied performance task areas
 - Individualized Competency: Job Experience, Occupational Verification, Specialized Skill, Advanced Academic, Workforce Skills Certification
- Post-Task Assessment
 - Opportunity to demonstrate items previously not demonstrated with 100% accuracy
- Portfolio Review
- Graduation

NEDP Staff Roles



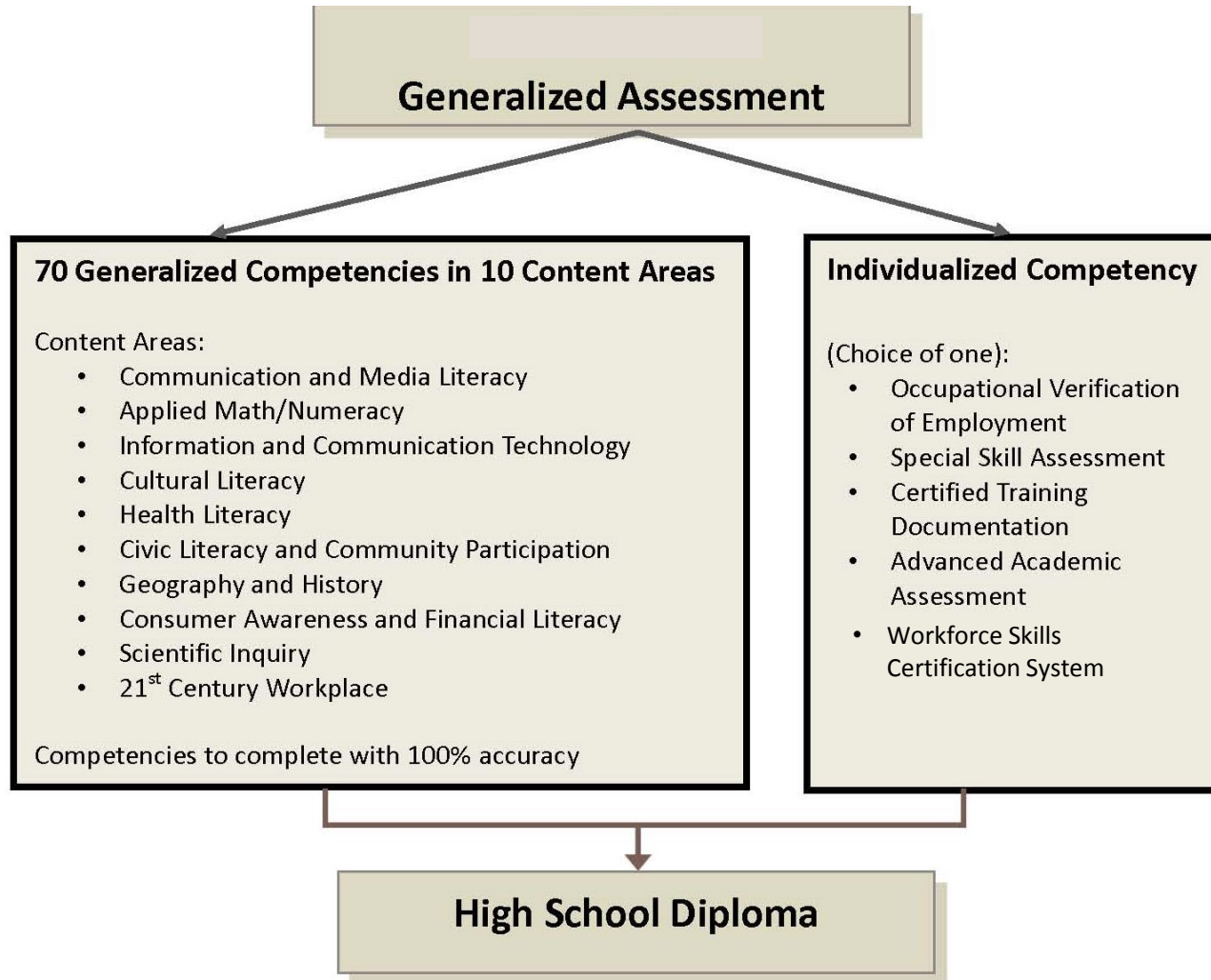
- NEDP Advisor
 - Administers Diagnostics
 - Interprets Diagnostic results
 - Provides feedback and advises on self-directed learning plan
- NEDP Assessor
 - Administers Generalized Assessment Tasks
 - Scores Tasks and provides client feedback
 - Conducts Post-Task Assessment
- Portfolio Reviewer
 - Conducts independent review of completed portfolio, including Generalized Competencies and Individualized Competency

NEDP Program Model: Diagnostics



Diagnostic screening increases client success

NEDP Program Model: Generalized Assessment



NEDP Diagnostics

“Closed” Diagnostics

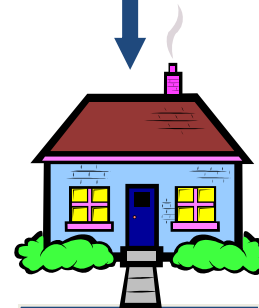
- Reading
- Math
- Writing



NEDP Site

“Open” Diagnostics

- Self-Assessment Checklist
- Individualized Competencies Diagnostic Instrument
- O*NET Occupational Interest Profiler



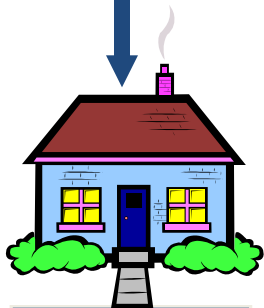
Home

NEDP Generalized Assessment

Take-Home
Activities

In-Office
Check/Interviews

Candidate
Progress Reports



Home



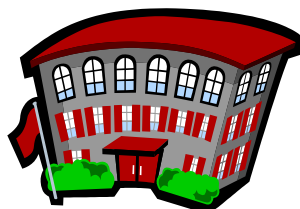
NEDP Site



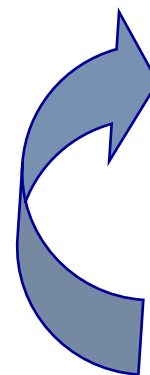
NEDP Site

NEDP Post-Task Assessment (PTA)

Post-Task
Assessment



NEDP Site



100%
Mastery



Completing NEDP Requirements



Portfolio Review

Individualized Competency Demonstrated



Graduation



NEDP Redesign Goals



- Create a seamless transition to post-secondary education and careers (major thrust of WIA reauthorization)
- Integrate technology into all aspects of NEDP program design and delivery
- Increase rigor of program through alignment with CCSSO/NGA Common Core (and College and Career Readiness) State Standards and other national standards initiatives
- Update and refine high quality performance assessments
- Expand access to new and existing markets and client populations

Enhanced Benefits for Clients



- College/Career Readiness
 - To ensure readiness for college-level credit-bearing courses and for careers through increased program rigor
 - To align NEDP to CCSSO and NGA Common Core State Standards
- Higher Order Thinking Skills (see next slide)
 - To ensure material is challenging and infused with higher order thinking skills demonstrated through practical, relevant venues
- Technology Skills
 - To ensure mastery of essential technology tools that are indispensable to everyday life and workplace productivity in the 21st century
- Relevancy
 - Uses standardized performance assessments to assess learners' ability to function in a real life context

Higher Order Thinking Skills



- Redesigned program expands critical thinking skills
- Assessments aligned with Webb Depth of Knowledge Levels
 - Level 1: Recall
 - Level 2: Skill/Concepts
 - Level 3: Strategic Thinking
 - Level 4: Extended Thinking

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