



National External Diploma Program A High School Completion Option for Today

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- **Introduction to the National External Diploma Program**
- **Program Description**
 - History and Statistics
 - Program Design
 - The Need for NEDP
- **NEDP Redesign**
 - Vision and Goals
 - Components of Redesign
 - Timelines
- **Support for Redesign**



Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems – CASAS:

- A nonprofit educational research organization and test publisher for over 30 years
- A basic skills remediation and assessment system for youth and adults with a life and work context
- An assessment system validated by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor
- National Consortium, comprising 30 states, informs assessment development and national policy
- An assessment system used extensively in the United States, in the Pacific Rim, Southeast Asia, and in Central America

- 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.

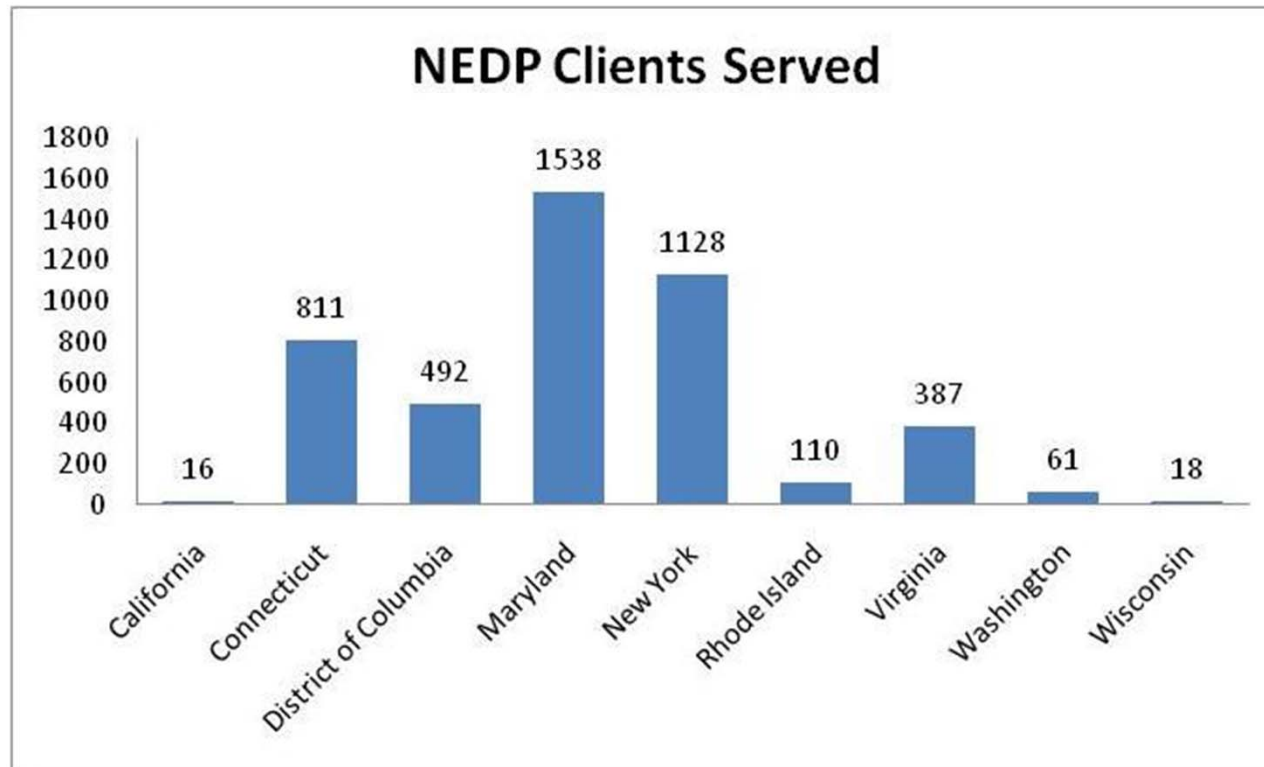
- 1972: A Ford Foundation/SRC Study Results
 - Adult education class schedules were not compatible with adult responsibilities
 - Content did not relate to real life experiences
 - Multiple choice, paper-pencil test formats too limiting
- 1975: NEDP debuted in Syracuse, New York
- 1979: NEDP validated by the USDOE for national dissemination
- 2006: CASAS acquired NEDP with support from New York, Maryland, and Connecticut

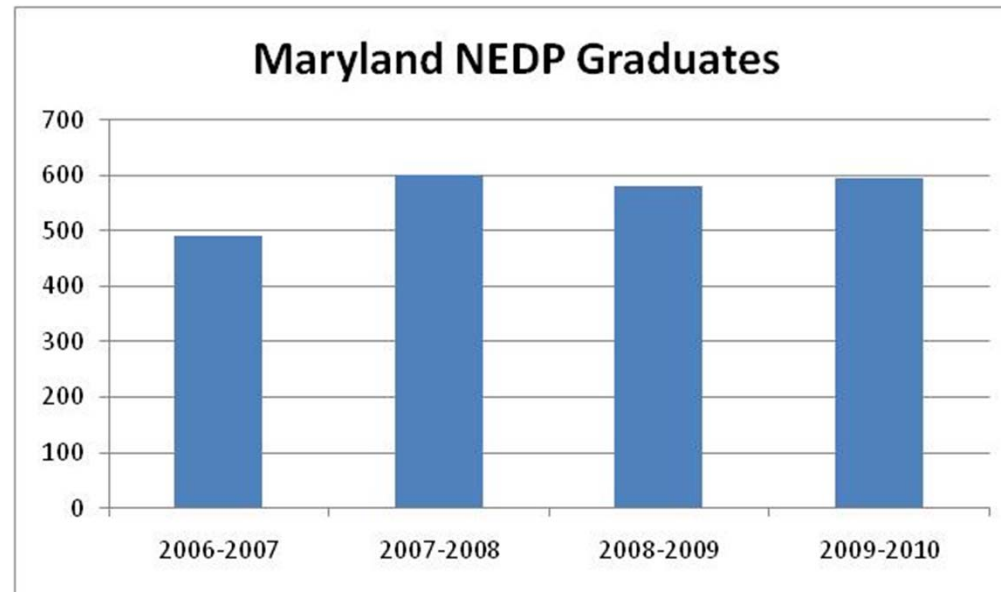
- Successful 36-year history
- NEDP includes 82 sites in 9 states
- 2006 – 2010 Data
 - Served an average of 4,416 clients each year
 - 6,791 total graduates



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

- State participation varies by state with the strongest programs in CT, MD, and NY
 - State oversight key to success in these states

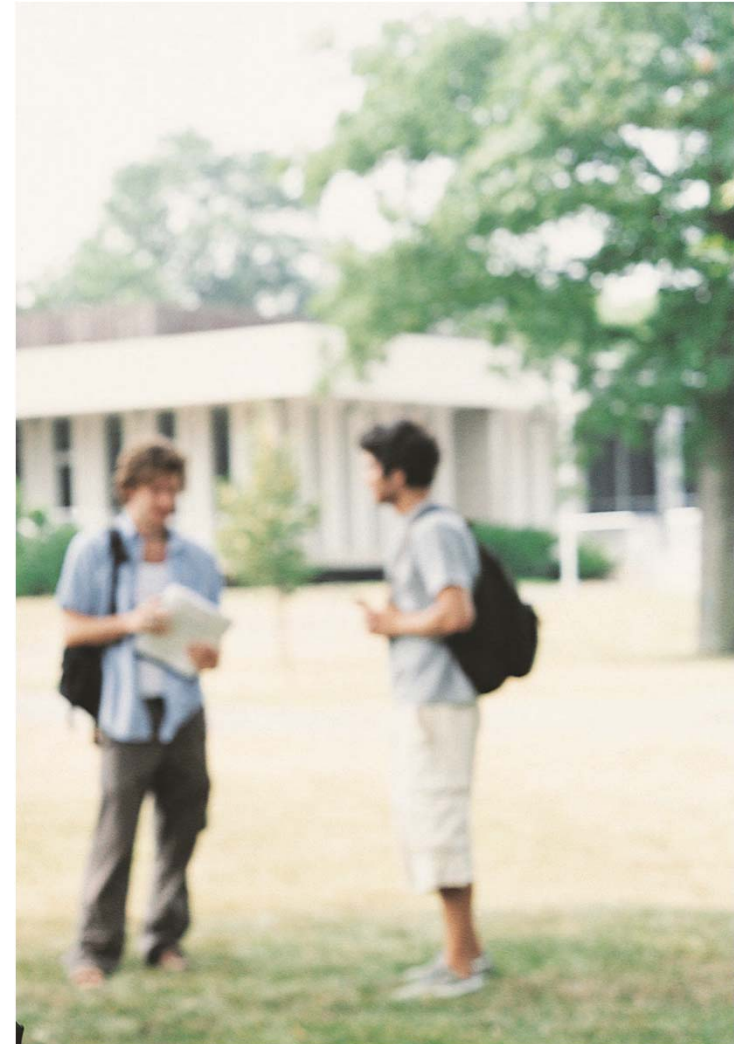




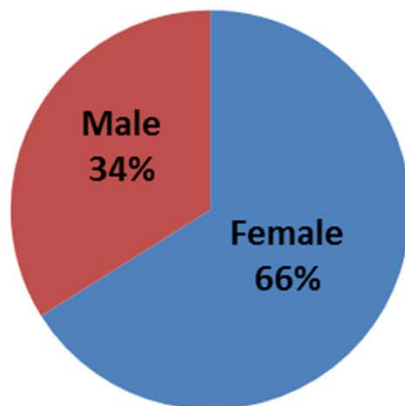
Maryland

- One of the largest NEDP programs in the nation.
- Average almost 600 graduates a year.
 - NEDP design provides a solution for a population that could not otherwise pass the GED
 - Represents almost 20% of our grant funded diplomas sent to NRS

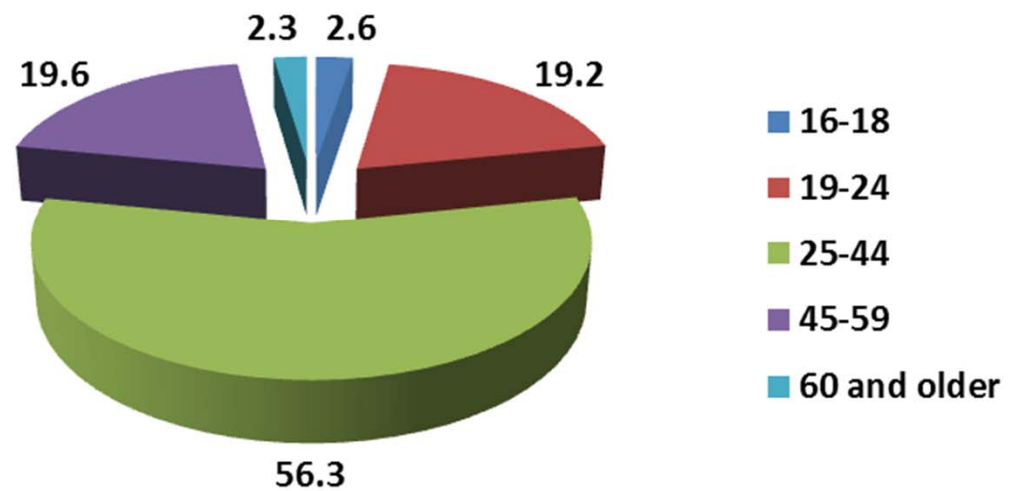
- NEDP has been implemented successfully in all types of agencies
 - Community Based Organizations
 - Public Schools
 - Community Colleges



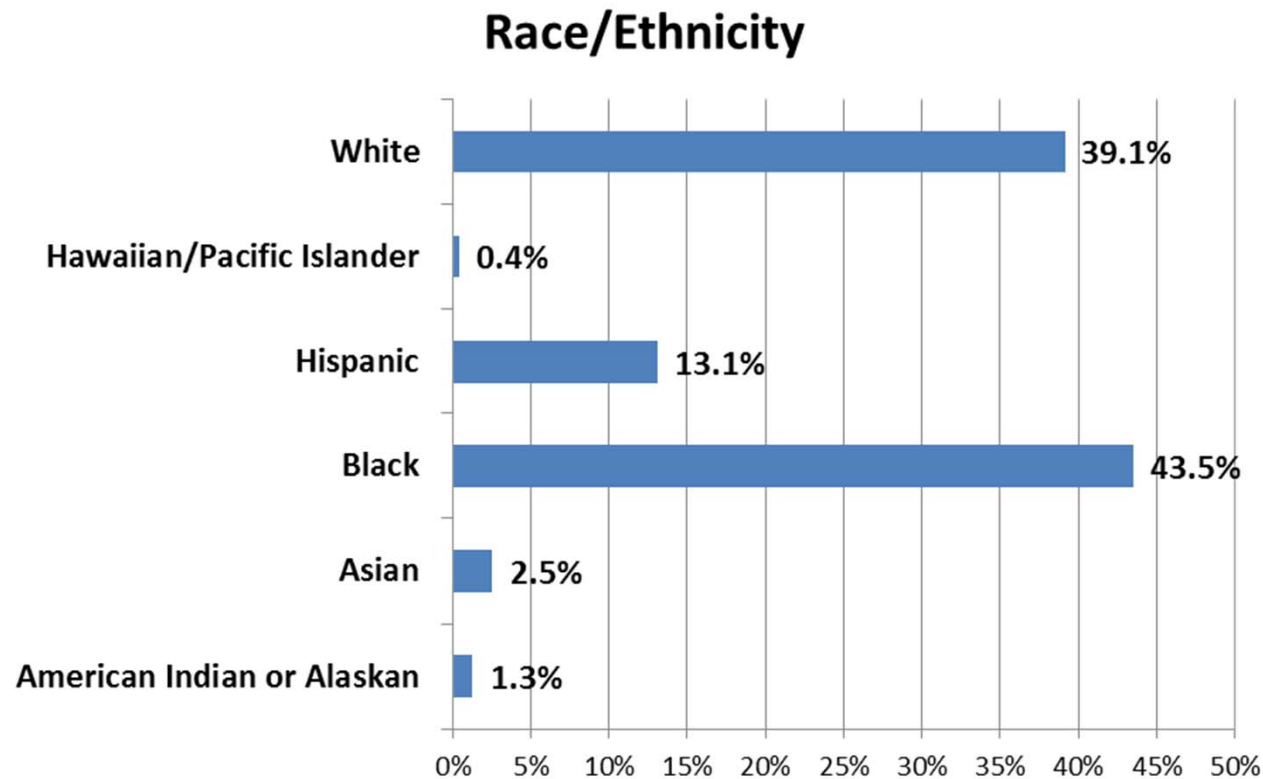
Gender



Participant Age

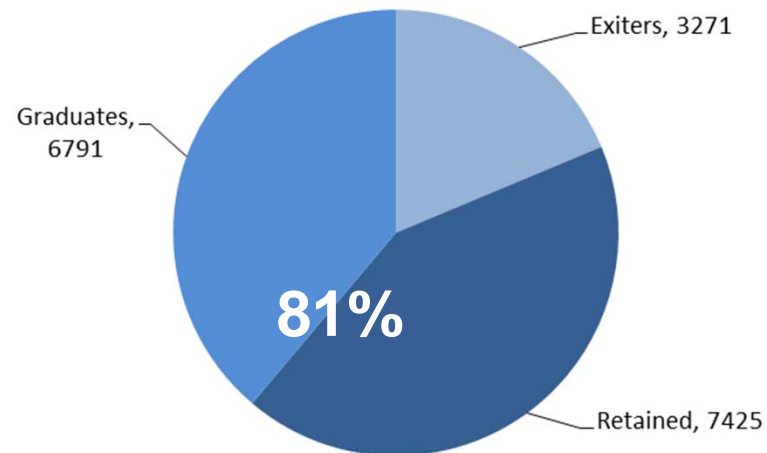


- Approximately 44% of clients are African American/Black, a typically underserved population in other high school diploma programs.



2006-2010

81% Graduation/Retention Rate.



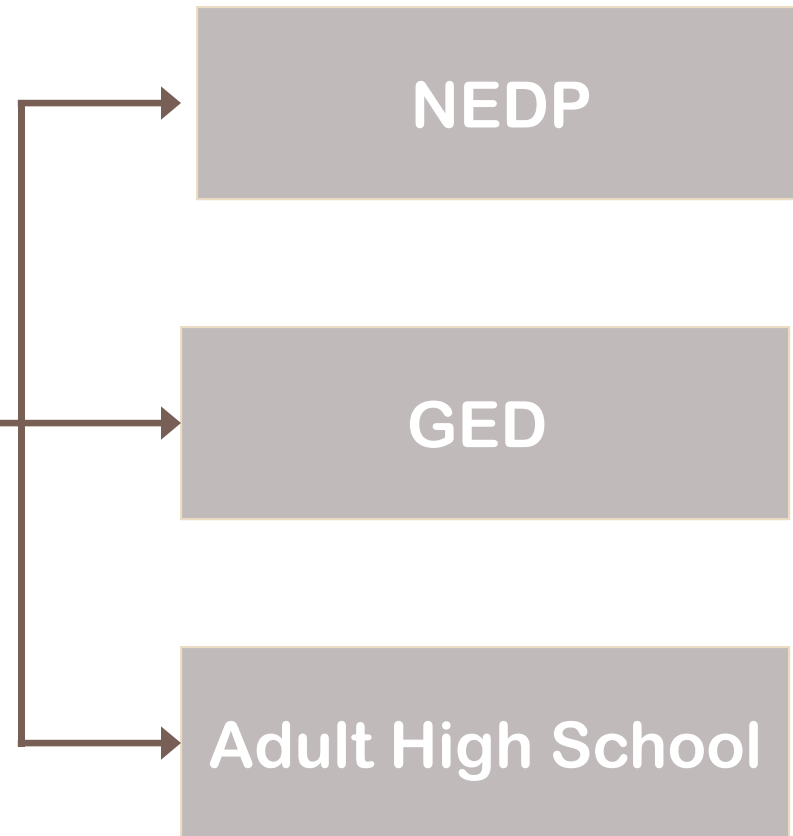
- Provides innovative approach in program content and delivery for youth and adults earning a high school diploma



- 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 self-sufficiency and active engagement of learner
- Offers a locally or state-awarded traditional high school diploma



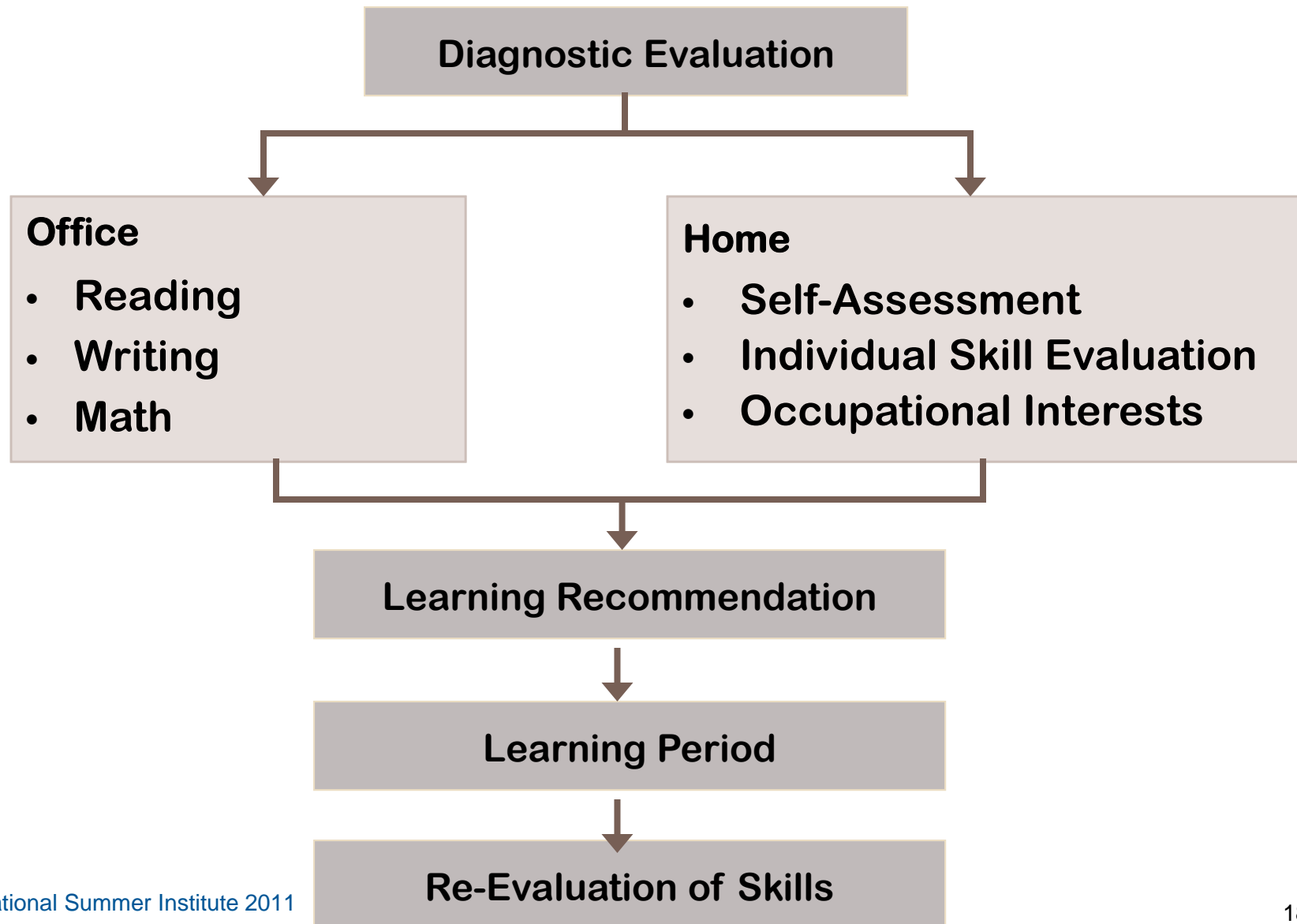
Information Session





- Eligibility requirements in Reading, Writing, Math
- Remediation support for those scoring below eligibility levels
- Personalized counseling

- Diagnostics
 - Math, reading, and writing assessments
 - Self-assessment of career interests and skills
- Generalized Assessment
 - Competencies – embedded in 5 applied performance task booklets
 - 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



Generalized Assessment

65 Generalized Competencies in 5 Tasks

Life Skill Themes of:

- Communication
- Computation
- Self Awareness
- Social Awareness
- Consumer Awareness
- Scientific Awareness
- Occupational Preparedness
- Technological Awareness

Five Tasks to complete with 100% accuracy

Individualized Competency

(Choice of one):

- Occupational Verification of Assessment
- Special Skill Assessment
- Advanced Academic Assessment
- Certified Training Documentation

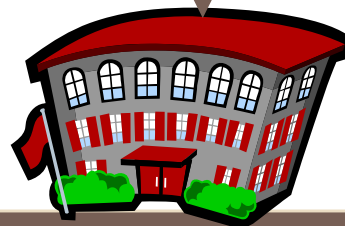
- 5 Tasks (A –E)
 - (A) Personal, Home, and Community Responsibility
 - (B) Exploring the Broader Community, the State, and the World
 - (C) Making Judgments and Influencing the Decisions Made by Others
 - (D) Planning for Life Changes
 - (E) Exploring the Future Around Work

Task Booklets



Home

Spot Check Interviews

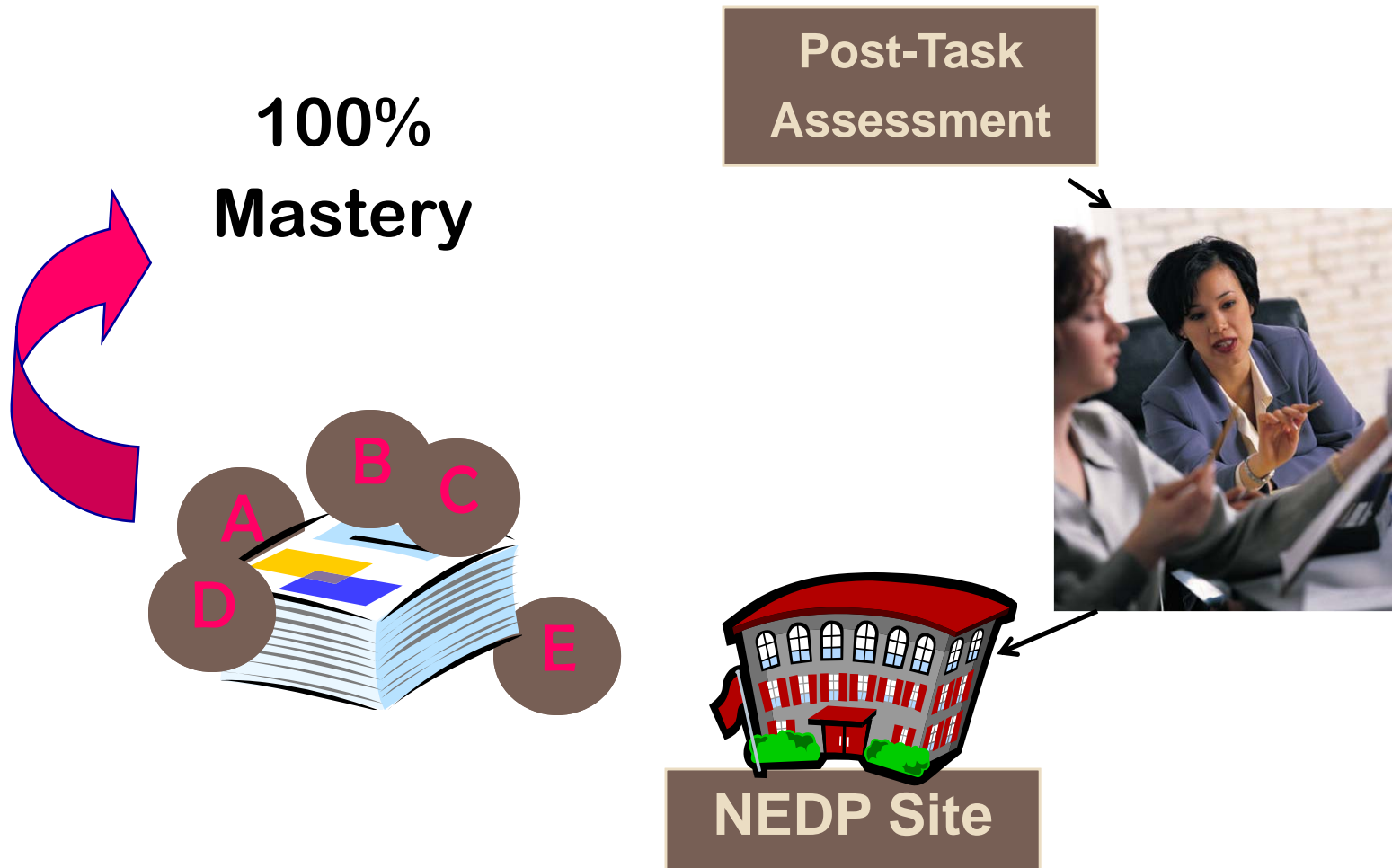


NEDP Site

Candidate Progress Reports



NEDP Site





Portfolio
Review

Individualized Competency
Demonstrated





- “Hands-on” approach
- Relevance to tasks in everyday life
- Active participation in learning
- Encouragement of self-worth and self-confidence
- Program design motivates learning
- One-on-one approach
- Flexibility



Student Reasons for Attrition	NEDP Solutions
Boredom/irrelevant content	Active learning/relevant content
No practical application of content	Practical application of skills
Barriers (LD, LEP, etc.)	Multiple opportunities to demonstrate; self-paced; untimed; criterion-referenced; non-competitive
Not motivated	Individualized
Needed job/became parent	Flexible hours
Unclear school expectations	Performance-based

- 1.2 million young adults drop out of school each year—approximately 30%
- 2 of 3 jobs in the U.S. will require education or training beyond a high school diploma



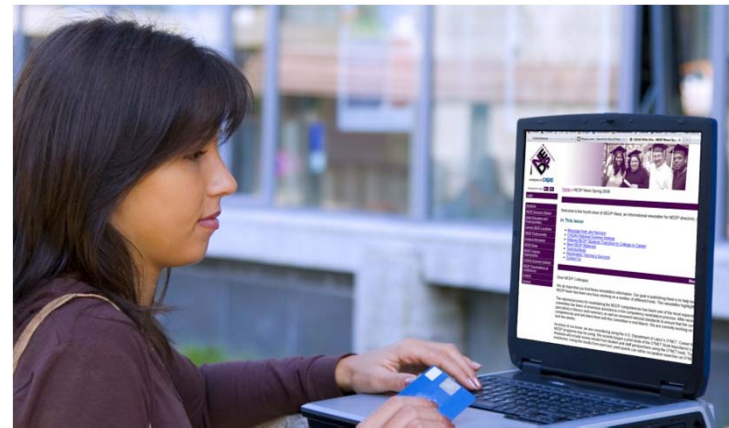
- Create a seamless transition to post-secondary education and careers (major thrust of WIA reauthorization)
- Integrate technology into all aspects of NEDP program design and delivery
- Increase rigor of program through alignment with CCSSO/NGA Common Core (and College and Career Readiness) State Standards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

- Access for underserved populations to a high quality high school completion program to ensure high productivity in the 21st century and proficiency in
 - Language arts, media and financial literacy, technology, math, science and the workplace
- Relevancy
 - No other national high school completion program uses standardized performance assessment methodologies to assess learners' ability to function in a real life context
- Technology Readiness
 - Technology will be integrated into all aspects of the program, so that clients use technology to simulate real life uses of technology

- College/Career Readiness
 - To ensure readiness for college-level credit-bearing courses and for careers**
 - To align NEDP to CCSSO and NGA Common Core State Standards
- Higher Order Thinking Skills
 - To ensure material is challenging and infused with higher order thinking skills demonstrated through practical, relevant venues
- Integration of Technology
 - To ensure mastery of essential technology tools that are indispensable to everyday life and workplace productivity in the 21st century

** Study after study suggests that current high school completion programs do not adequately prepare individuals for post-secondary education and careers

- Clinical tryouts of item prototypes
 - Ongoing
- Field testing of task items, by competency area
 - Ongoing through 2012
- Gradual implementation by competency area beginning in Fall 2011
- Full implementation of web-delivered NEDP by 2012



Evaluation Components Redesign Initiative

- Increased number of NEDP high school diplomas issued nationally
- Increased NEDP graduates transitioning to post-secondary education and/or careers
- Increased data on preferred learning styles among NEDP graduates
- Increased NEDP graduates with workforce readiness certification
- Graduates will demonstrate mastery of essential technology tools for the 21st century



- Currently in nine states, with potential scalability after redesign to reach thousands more underserved youth and adults in need of a quality secondary credential program
- Marketing efforts for program expansion will be intensified as redesign completion nears
- Several states are very interested in adding NEDP as a high school completion option



- Become more active participants in their children's education
- Enter postsecondary education institutions
- Achieve job promotions and pay increases
- Gain personal satisfaction and become more involved



- Participate in 3 ½ day training session
- Train at least 3 staff as advisors/assessors (college degree required)
- Provide evidence of diploma granting authority
- Submit letter from the state BOE or other appropriate state agency authorizing an NEDP adoption
- Pay an annual site fee
- Agree to award traditional high school diploma to successful candidates
- Ensure facilities provide for client confidentiality

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