

## National External Diploma Program® (NEDP): A High School Completion Option

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NEDP Director

Janita McNemar  
NEDP National Training Specialist

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## Let's Set The Stage

- How many of you have heard of NEDP?
- How many HSEs can you name?
- Does anyone work with clients who have barriers to completing their educational pathway to a HS diploma?
- Do your local WIOA plans require you to work with agencies under different Titles of WIOA?
- Are employers in your community demanding a higher level of skills attainment (academic, workplace, and technology)?

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## Agenda

- NEDP Overview and History
- Diagnostics and Individualized Competency
- Generalized Assessment
- Portfolio Review
- NEDP Program Preview
- NEDP and WIOA
- NEDP Implementation

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## What is the NEDP?

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### The National External Diploma Program (NEDP)

- competency-based
- applied performance assessment system
- participants demonstrate their abilities
- series of performance tasks
- parallel job and life situations

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## NEDP: Brief History

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### 1972 Ford Foundation/Syracuse Research Corporation Study Results

- 1) Adult education class schedules were not compatible with adult responsibilities
- 2) Content did not relate to real life experiences
- 3) Multiple choice, paper/pencil tests were too limiting

1975 NEDP debuted in Syracuse, New York

1979 NEDP validated by the US Dept. of Education for national dissemination

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

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## NEDP Locations

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- NEDP is implemented in 84 agencies nationally
- Implemented in 8 states and the District of Columbia



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## NEDP: Assessed Skills

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Foundation Skills	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skills	Self-Efficacy Skills
Reading Writing Mathematics Information and Communication Technology Listening / Speaking Media Literacy Geography and History Science	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Workplace Cultural Literacy Civic Literacy and Community Participation Health Literacy Financial Literacy and Consumer Awareness	Self-Assessment Learning to Learn Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Self-Direction Goal Setting and Time Management Working Independently

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## NEDP: Client Outcomes

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- Acquire skills needed to demonstrate mastery of competencies
- Are evaluated against a criterion of mastery instead of comparison to others
- Earn a Diploma
- Demonstrate incremental progress rather than relying on an all-or-nothing exam
- Have the flexibility to work and/or obtain workforce training (IET – Integrated Education and Training)

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## What Do Graduates Like about NEDP?

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- Relevance of tasks to everyday life and candidate goals (gain/retain employment, enter postsecondary education and/or training)
- Active participation and self-directed learning
- Hands-on approach
- Advisor and Assessor relationships
- Flexibility to work at own pace



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**NEDP Requirements:  
Diagnostic Assessment**

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**NEDP Diagnostic Phases**

<p><b>Proctored Diagnostics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CASAS Reading</li><li>• CASAS Writing</li><li>• CASAS Math</li></ul>	<p><b>Non-Proctored Diagnostics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-Assessment Checklist</li><li>• Technology Skills Self-Assessment Checklist</li><li>• Individualized Diagnostic Competencies Instrument</li><li>• O*NET Occupational Interest Profiler</li></ul>
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**NEDP Requirements:  
Generalized  
Assessment**

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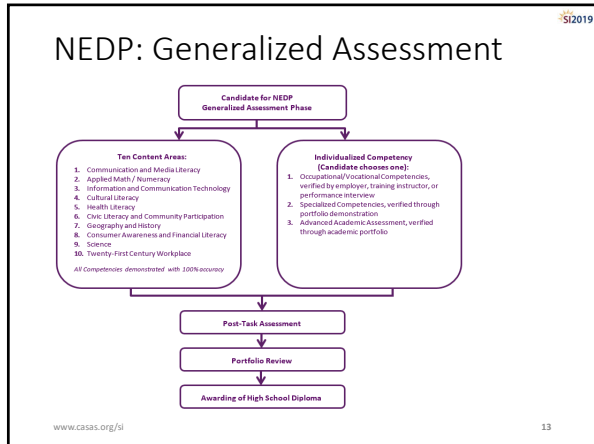
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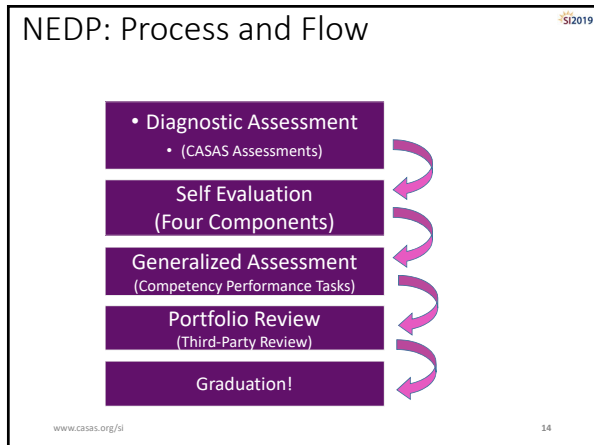
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## NEDP Generalized Assessment: Competency Content

NEDP competencies emphasize 21<sup>st</sup> century skills required for the successful transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce:

1. Communication and Media Literacy
2. Applied Math/Numeracy
3. Information and Communication Technology
4. Cultural Literacy (Literature and Film)
5. Health Literacy
6. Civic Literacy and Community Participation
7. Geography and History
8. Consumer Awareness and Financial Literacy
9. Science
10. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workplace

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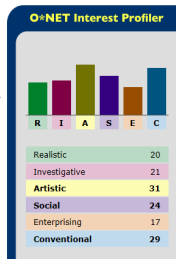
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## Workplace Emphasis in NEDP

- O\*NET Interest Profiler [MyNextMove.org](http://MyNextMove.org)
- O\*NET research on careers
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workplace content area
- Career planning and research
- Development of a resume and cover letter



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## NEDP: Program Samples

- Client Interface
  - Activities
  - Online resources
- Assessor Interface
  - Activate competencies, In-Office Checks, Post-Task Assessment
  - Score client responses
  - Provide feedback
- NEDP Portfolio
  - Score and log client's work
  - Monitor progress
  - Client feedback reports



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## NEDP: Program Accommodations

The NEDP has accommodations incorporated in the web-based delivery system:

- Clear tabs direct clients to Overview, Activities, In-Office Check, and Tutorials.
- Overview provides the “why” for the competency and summarizes activities.
- Most competencies include web links or PDF resources.
- Resource icons clearly noted with white text on dark teal background.
- Clients can attempt an item multiple times. (no timed testing)

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## NEDP: Program Accommodations (cont.)

- Evaluation criteria match competencies and performance indicators.
- Oral In-Office Checks can alternately be done through electronic submission in word.
- All video tutorials have tutorial transcripts in PDF.
- Color contrasts optimize readability for clients with low vision.
- Size of font can be enlarged using Microsoft's Magnifier.
- Keyboard can be used for clients unable to manipulate a mouse.

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## NEDP: Portfolio Review

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## NEDP: Portfolio Review

- Upon completion of each competency area, a third-party reviewer verifies that all the competencies have been demonstrated to 100% mastery
- Client either moves on to graduation or is required to resubmit areas requiring additional attention

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NEDP and WIOA

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NEDP & WIOA: Supports WIOA Goals

- Allows clients to obtain a HS diploma while meeting other WIOA performance measures
- Provides a stackable credential that verifies to employers that the client has the foundational, cognitive, and occupational-specific skills needed for work readiness
- Offers an ideal option for WIOA partners looking to develop an integrated education and training (IET) program

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NEDP Program Implementation

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## California Implementation

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Inland Career Education Center  
Leticia Villa, Principal

Yucaipa Adult Education  
Dana Carter, Principal

Inland Adult Education Consortium  
Emma Diaz, Manager

Feather River Adult Education Consortium  
Wendy Jackson, Sierra County Office of Education

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## NEDP: General Site Requirements

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- Contact Margaret Kirkpatrick, NEDP Director
- Provide evidence of diploma-granting authority
- Have a minimum of 3 staff per local agency complete the NEDP Implementation Training to become NEDP Advisors/Assessors
  - Minimum requirements for Advisors/Assessors include a four-year college degree and any state certification requirements
- Be assured of potential NEDP client base

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## NEDP: Staff Roles

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### NEDP Advisor

- Administers diagnostics
- Interprets diagnostic results with candidate
- Provides feedback/advises on self-directed learning plan

### NEDP Assessor

- Administers Generalized Assessment competency areas
- Evaluates performance tasks and provides client feedback
- Conducts ongoing task review

### NEDP Portfolio Reviewer

- Conducts independent review of completed portfolio, including Generalized Competencies and Individualized Competency

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## NEDP: Implementation Training

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- Workshop: Introductory/Overview
  - Self-study units
- Workshop: Diagnostic Phase
- Workshop: Generalized Assessment
- Workshop: Evaluation and Mastery
  - Portfolio Review
  - Inter-rater reliability check-points
- Ongoing Technical Assistance

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## Contact Information

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## Thank you for attending!

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