



National External Diploma Program



NEDP – A WIOA Solution

The National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is a flexible performance-based option for adults and out-of-school youth to earn a **high school diploma** plus an **occupational or specialized skill**.

NEDP Outcomes

- Earn a secondary school diploma.
- Transition to postsecondary education, training, or work.

Benefits of the NEDP in Career Pathways

- Ideal option for WIOA partners looking to develop an integrated education (IE) and training program.
- Students may complete work at home, the library, or wherever there is a computer.
- Eligible participants can complete the program in 4-12 months.
- Flexible scheduling means the participant can earn a high school diploma while employed, enrolled in job training, or managing other commitments.



Advantages of the NEDP

- Focuses on application and demonstration of knowledge and skills.
- Develops and assesses technology skills.
- Aligned to college and career readiness standards.
- Reflects real-life performance tasks.
- Allows for in-depth content coverage.
- Is self-paced and not timed.

The NEDP performance assessments use critical thinking, digital literacy, and self-management skills and require competence in using resources and information, understanding systems, and obtaining the necessary skills to successfully transition to and complete postsecondary education, training, and employment.

The NEDP contextualized learning program design encourages co-enrollment with WIOA partners in career pathway approaches.



NEDP participants earn a high school diploma through documentation of **educational attainment** and through the **College and Career Competency** that prepares them to enter the workforce, upgrade skills, advance to a better job, or move from one field of work to another.

For youth or individuals with limited work experience, the **College and Career Competency** verifies that an NEDP graduate has the work readiness, situational judgment, problem solving and critical thinking skills to be successful in the workplace.

“NEDP participants see the relevance of the competencies and tasks to real life. NEDP empowers candidates to want to go further.” – NEDP provider

College and Career Competency

The College and Career Competency is designed to optimize credential attainment and verify the success of the NEDP client in securing marketable skills, credentials, employment, and further education and employment opportunities. The College and Career Competency, along with education attainment documented through the NEDP Generalized Assessment, aids the client in preparation to enter the workforce, upgrade skills, advance to a better job, or move from one field of work to another. For youth or individuals with limited work experience, it verifies that an NEDP graduate has the work readiness, situational judgment, problem solving and critical thinking skills to be successful in an entry level job...

Foundation Skills and Core Subjects
Reading
Writing
Mathematics
Information and Communication Technology
Listening / Speaking
Media Literacy
Geography and History
Science

21st Century Themes in Context Areas
21st Century Workplace
Cultural Literacy
Civic Literacy and Community Participation
Health Literacy
Financial Literacy and Consumer Awareness

Self-Efficacy Skills
Self-Assessment
Learning to Learn
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
Self-Direction
Goal-Setting and Time Management
Working Independently

CASAS works with the state agency responsible for administering the WIOA adult education grant to establish NEDP as an allowable secondary school diploma option.