

National External Diploma Program (NEDP) Frequently Asked Questions

National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is a different approach to achieving an adult high school diploma. Instead of timed tests, you will show your high school skills through real life activities in individual weekly appointments. Instead of going to classes, you will work with our teachers in individual or small groups. This program is for adults 21 years of age or older.

Through a series of take-home projects and spot-check interviews, this program measures your academic and life skills, including:

- reading
- writing
- mathematics
- oral communication
- critical thinking

As you work toward your high school diploma, you'll both demonstrate and increase your awareness of occupational, social, consumer, aesthetic, government, and scientific issues by:

- using data-gathering skills
- manipulating data
- analyzing data
- applying data
- solving problems

How will I demonstrate the skills I have?

You can demonstrate your skills in practical ways. For example, you might

- write a letter to a member of Congress or to a landlord
- measure a room for carpeting
- compute interest on a charge card

Can my job and home experience help satisfy the requirements?

Yes. As part of your participation in the National External Diploma Program, you'll need to demonstrate that you have either a job skill, specialized skill, or advanced academic skill. You can demonstrate these skills through:

- a current occupation or trade
- home management experience
- advanced academic skills
- training in a new field

Will I get a real diploma and can I use it to go to college?

Yes! A local school board will issue your diploma. You may then apply to any college, just like any other high school graduate. Remember, colleges have varying admissions standards to which all applicants must adhere, regardless of where they obtain their diploma.

How long does it take to get a diploma?

Completing the program takes an average of six months. Your skill level and the amount of time you can devote to the program determine the length of time required.

What kind of adult chooses the National External Diploma Program?

Adults who:

- are self-directed and mature
- may be concerned about confidentiality
- want recognition of their lifelong learning and employment experiences
- prefer to demonstrate their knowledge in practical ways

How is the National External Diploma Program different from a traditional high school?

NEDP is designed especially for mature adults. It is:

- self-paced
- confidential
- not curriculum-driven
- conducted through one-on-one appointments with trained advisors and assessors

It also offers participants:

- flexible scheduling
- the ability to choose their instructional resources
- mastery, without requiring classroom time

Where can I find an NEDP program near me?

In Rhode Island the following adult education organizations provide NEDP services:

- Amos House
- Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center (AIALC)
- Cranston Alternate Learning Center (CALC)
- Education Exchange
- English for Action (EFA)
- Genesis Center
- Institute for Labor Studies
- Literacy Volunteers of Washington County
- Project LEARN

- Providence Housing Authority (PHA)
- RI Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI)
- **RIRAL**

For more information about NEDP, you can contact RIRAL at 401.762.3841