

NATIONAL EXTERNAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM

A pathway to a HSE Diploma in NYS

for Head Start in New York State

Thursday, December 17, 2020

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

NYS Council on Children and Families, NYS Head Start Collaboration Project

and

New York State Education Department High School Equivalency (HSE) Office

Today's Agenda

WebEx – All participants muted, unless presenting, and chat box used for questions and comments.

Welcome

Renee Rider, Executive Director

NYS Council on Children and Families

Overview of Today's Program

Patricia Persell, Director, NYS Head Start Collaboration Director

NYS Council on Children and Families

Importance of a High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma and NEDP

Ruth Singer, Director, High School Equivalency (HSE) Office

NYS Education Department

Implementing NEDP with Head Start Parents

Casey Karger, Adult Education Instructor

*Action for a Better Community
Rochester, NY*

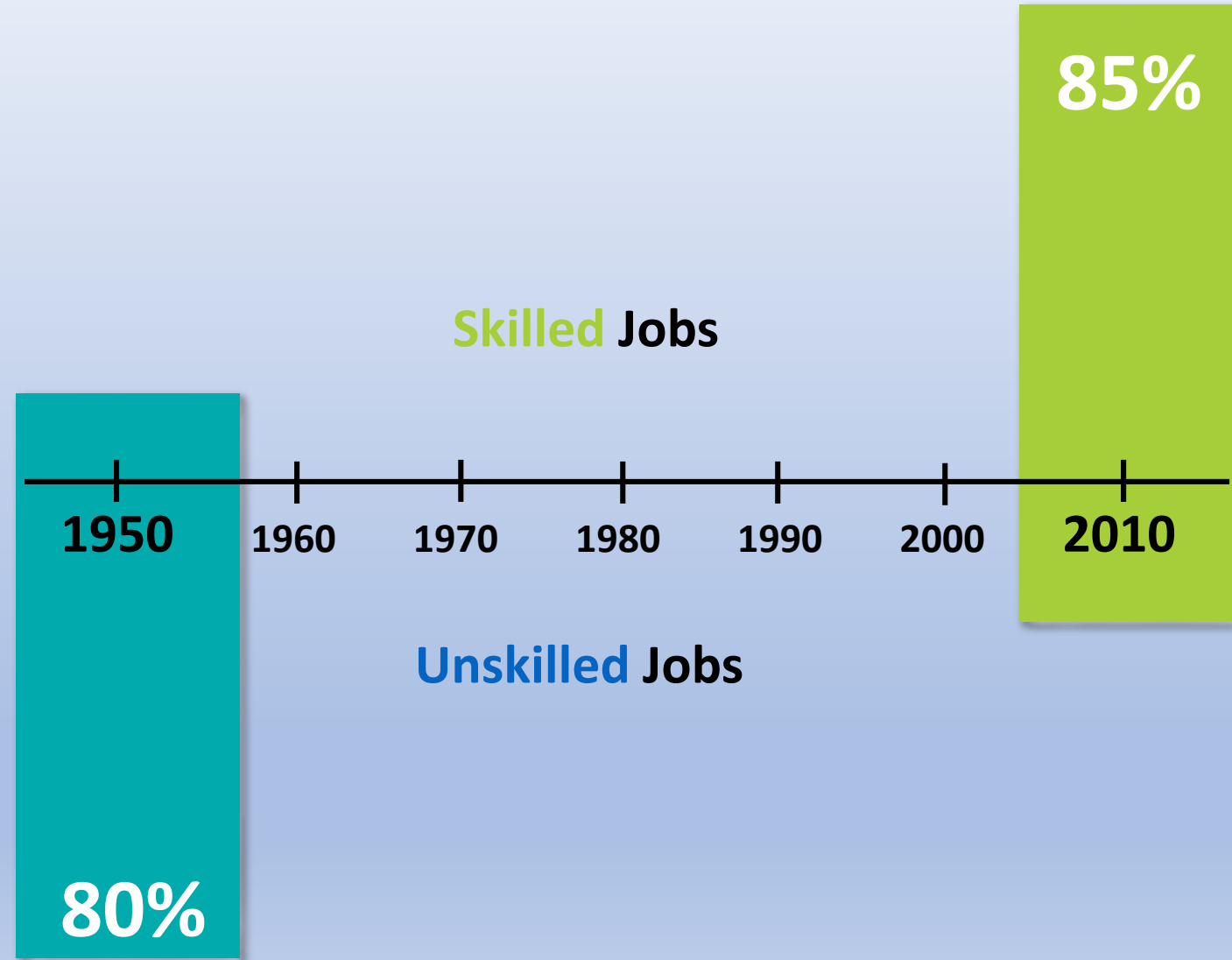
Why is a High School or HSE Diploma Important?

Adults with a high school diploma or HSE diploma have better career opportunities, with increased access to post secondary training.

Unemployment is significantly higher for those without a high school diploma or high school equivalency (HSE) diploma

The economy is shifting, requiring a minimum of a high school or HSE diploma, to benefit from changing technologies.

Job Demands Are Shifting



Parent Education Supports Head Start Goals

Education supports the core mission of Head Start, including strong family foundations and healthy and stable home and family life.

Academic skills are gained in the process of obtaining a diploma which translate into improved reading, writing, critical thinking and overall learning and acquisition of knowledge.

Many studies link the educational level of a child's parent, primarily mother, with future educational attainment of a child.

High School Diplomas and Head Start Parents

Over 1.2 million US students drop out of high school every year.

About 13,000, or 24% of Head Start parents in NYS, do not have a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.

4 Pathways to an HSE Diploma in NYS

- 1) The primary method for earning a HSE diploma is by taking a standardized test, or the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC). The TASC is comprised of 5 subtests.
- 2) 24 college credit option.
- 3) The National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is a competency-based portfolio approach to demonstrating knowledge and skills.
- 4) Prior Regents exams can substitute for TASC content subtests.

All the options are described on the HSE Office homepage:

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/high-school-equivalency-hse>

What is the National External Diploma Program?

NEDP is an online competency-based applied performance assessment program.

Participants must own or have access to a computer; and have internet access.

A diagnostics test is administered prior to enrollment in NEDP to ensure participants have the basic academic skills needed to be successful.

Once enrolled, participants demonstrate their knowledge of ten content areas using real-life experiences and knowledge gained or needed in daily living.

NEDP Advisor/Assessors work with participants to evaluate their responses throughout all the competency areas, until all ten are sufficiently demonstrated.

Assessors help direct students toward the instruction needed to demonstrate mastery of the competency areas required through existing community resources. Each student must also fulfill a College and Career Competency.

Brief History of NEDP

NEDP began in the 1970's in Syracuse, NY as a non-traditional approach to demonstrating high school level proficiency through a competency-based assessment program that connected with adult students' lives.

In 1984, the NYSED Board of Regents adopted a regulation permitting school districts to award local high school diplomas under NEDP.

The Board of Regents adopted NEDP as a statewide option for an HSE diploma in 2016 and lowered the age of participation from 21 to 18.

Currently NEDP operates in 11 states.



How is NEDP structured in NYS?

NYSED contracts with the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System(CASAS), a not-for-profit headquartered in CA, for the oversight and administration of NEDP in NYS.

Two trainers and three mentors provide information, direction and support to 23 agencies in NYS that offer NEDP.

Agency staff are trained to be NEDP Advisor/Assessor for participants in the program.

What is the role of a NEDP Advisor/Assessor?

An agency offering NEDP assigns one or more staff person to the Advisor/Assessor role, and they receive training through CASAS.

Advisor: Explains the program to interested people and conducts some basic testing to determine their ability to be successful in the program.

Assessor: Works closely with the NEDP participant to continually assess their responses to assignments, which are submitted online and based on the ten competency areas. They give clear feedback to participants on which subparts of competencies are demonstrated, and/or which still need to be demonstrated.

Recently, NYSED hosted a meeting for Advisors, where they describe their role as:
cheerleader and coach - patient - enthusiastic - friendly - fun - empathetic, but objective— respect of background and culture.

ABC is a New NEDP Agency

The Action for a Better Community (ABC) in Rochester is a community action agency in Rochester, NY

ABC staff were trained on how to administer NEDP in 2019.

They currently have four trained staff and ten current NEDP participants, some of whom are parents in their Head Start program.

Casey Karger, Adult Education Instructor, from ABC will present on their NEDP initiative and strategies for encouraging participation of Head Start parents.



Our Head Start Collaboration and NEDP

Action for a Better Community

ABC is a Community Action Agency for Monroe and Ontario Counties located in Rochester, NY

ABC provides services to community including: Adult Education; Head Start; Employment Services; Adult Mentoring; Energy Conservation; Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Counseling; Gun Violence Reduction Initiatives; Health Professional Opportunity Grants; HIV/AIDS Counseling and Support; and more.

ABCs Adult Education Program

ABC is currently offering:

- 1) TASC (formerly GED) classes in all 5 subjects (including 3 different math levels)
- 2) CASAS; TABE; and TASC Testing
- 3) One-on-one and small group tutoring
- 4) National External Diploma Program (NEDP)

ABC Head Start

ABC currently operates 6 Head Start centers throughout the city of Rochester

Pilot Program for ABC's Adult Education program in 1 center with plans to expand.

"Because of the pandemic, we've made more of an effort to enroll students in NEDP, because it is remote."

ABC Contacts

ABC Website - www.abcinfo.org

ABC phone # - (585) 325-5116

Contacts:

Shawn L. Futch – sfutch@abcinfo.org – Ext.3418

Casey Karger – ckarger@abcinfo.org – Ext. 3416

Next Steps

Thank you for joining today's session!

Please submit any questions through the Chat Box.

If you have Head Start parents who may be interested in NEDP, please contact the NEDP agency nearest you: **23 agencies in NYS offer NEDP**

<https://www.casas.org/nedp/locations/new-York>

If your Head Start program is interested in learning more about becoming an NEDP provider agency, please contact: Ruth Singer, Director of the HSE Office at NYSED:

Ruth.Singer@nysed.gov