

“The fireworks begin today. Each diploma is a lighted match. Each one of you is a fuse.”

-ED KOCH

Find out if the Maryland External Diploma Program is right for you. For more information on the availability of this program in your community, call:

Allegany County (301) 687-8025
Anne Arundel County (410) 691-9088
Baltimore City (410) 625-4215
Baltimore County (410) 918-4284
Calvert County (410) 535-7382
Carroll County (410) 386-2559
Charles County (301) 609-3690
Dorchester County (410) 228-4747
ext. 1011
Frederick County (240) 236-8434
Howard County (410) 772-4747
Prince George's County . . (301) 322-0891
(301) 602-2970
Somerset County (410) 623-3328
Washington County (301) 790-2800
Wicomico County (410) 341-3734

Literacy Works Information Toll Free Hotline:
1-888-464-3346

Maryland Literacy Center: www.goGEDgo.org

The External Diploma Program is administered and funded through the Maryland State Department of Education, Div. of Career Technology & Adult Learning, Adult Education & Literacy Services: Phone: (410) 767-0334, Fax: (410) 333-2099, TTY/TDD: (410) 333-0389.

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Nancy S. Grasmick, State
Superintendent of Schools
Martin J. O'Malley, Governor

Adult Education & Literacy Services
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201



Stepping Up to the future

Building better lives through the
Maryland EDP Program
...one diploma at a time.



www.marylandpublicschools.org
www.umbc.edu/alrc

What is the External Diploma Program (EDP)?

The EDP is a program designed for self-directed, often very skilled participants whose independent study and real-world experiences provide a strong base of knowledge. The program is flexible, confidential, and ideally suited for those who thrive in life-experience situations more so than in the classroom.

You CAN go to college!
The diploma is issued by the Maryland State Department of Education and is accepted by colleges and universities. Some colleges may require that adults meet additional admissions standards.

Why Should You Enroll in the EDP?

Chances are you've already experienced some limitations and challenges that were the result of not having a high school diploma. Perhaps you've been passed over for promotions, or never pursued the additional education that you would have liked. Maybe you felt as if you've never had a strong sense of job security, or just wished you felt more confident in the example you were setting for loved ones.

More so than for any other generation before, a diploma is necessary for a successful career. The *Report of the Maryland Adult External High School Diploma Program Evaluation* said 56% of Maryland employers reported they will have fewer jobs for workers without a high school diploma.

The EDP program can change your life. Upon completion of the EDP, you will be awarded a high school diploma from the Maryland State Department of Education. With it, you can advance in your current field with fewer limitations and enjoy better job security. Or, finally pursue additional training and education at the college level. Regardless of whatever professional paths you travel, you're bound to feel a greater sense of accomplishment in yourself, and in the example you set for others.

Participating in the EDP is Easy

Designed for working adults, the EDP is a self-paced program that allows participants to demonstrate their skills in practical ways. For instance, the ability to read a newspaper, write a letter to a prospective employer, measure for carpeting or compute interest on a loan are all applicable demonstrations of academic skills. Conducted through one-on-one appointments with nationally certified assessors, the sessions are flexible to accommodate your work schedule, and confidential. It is not a classroom-based program, and does not involve traditional scholastic instruction or testing.


Who Qualifies for the EDP?

Motivated and self-directed adults with a job history or home management experience are ideal candidates for the EDP. Participants must have individualized skills that can be demonstrated in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:


- documentation of a current occupation or trade
- advanced academic skills
- training in a new field

How to Get Started


To enroll in the External Diploma Program, contact the EDP office closest to you. (Phone numbers of counties that offer the EDP are listed on the opposite side of this panel.) Or visit www.goGEDgo.org for more information.




Marshall had no interest in his education as a young man. Leaving high school was a decision he always regretted. But with the help from the EDP program, he has a diploma, a better job and has gained more self respect in the example he has set for his loved ones.



When **Carmen** left high school to start a family, she was afraid she'd never realize her goal of attending college. Today she's enrolled in a local community college, and is on her way to receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.



Richard left school at an early age to help out in his family's tackle shop. When it closed its doors in 1987, he was unemployed and under educated. Today, he has his diploma, a certificate from a college program, and is gainfully employed as an electrician.



The *Report of the Maryland Adult External High School Diploma Program Evaluation* indicates that within 18 months, the average EDP graduates' earnings had increased by **\$2,754** per year. Within three years, their earnings had increased **\$7,000** or more.