**Prince William County Public Schools Adult Education: High School Completion**

The Adult Education Program offers two means to earn a high school credential. Participants may enroll in the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) which is an untimed competency based high school completion program. Successful completion of the NEDP earns the participant a standard high school diploma awarded through the Office of Adult Education.

Participants may also choose the high school equivalency examination, the **General Educational** **Development (GED®)**program, which awards a high school equivalency certificate upon successful completion. PWCS Adult Education offers classes at the basic skill level (ABE), at the pre-GED**®** level and at the GED® level. Registrants are tested with state approved assessments to determine the proper level of placement in classes. Class instructors monitor student progress and advise them as to when they are ready to take the official GED® Test. The official GED® Get Readypractice test is often used to determine test readiness. Class instruction is standards based and follows the College and Career Readiness Standards and instructors are highly qualified. Students use many resources and the official GED® textbook as their tool kit used to prepare for the official test. The cost of these classes is $100 for 60 hours of class instruction, $125 for 75 hours of class instruction and $170 for 90 hours of class instruction. Throughout the program year, classes vary according to the number of hours offered. Students are also asked to purchase the textbook which costs approximately $25 depending upon where it is purchased. Students register with Pearson VUE to take the official GED® Test. Testing costs are charged by Pearson VUE at test registration and are currently set at $30 per section. There are four sections to the test: language arts, social studies, math and science. PWCS Adult Education manages a Pearson VUE Testing Center, but students may register to take their test at any Pearson VUE Testing Center located in Prince William County.

**National External Diploma Program (NEDP)**

The NEDP is a competency-based high school diploma program for individuals 18 years of age and over and is designed for adults who have acquired their academic skills through life and work experiences and can demonstrate what they have learned.  This program is delivered through a one-on-one delivery method. Each student is assigned to an Advisor/Assessor who guides him/her through the program. The student and his or her Advisor create a schedule whereby they can meet. During these meetings which generally occur every two weeks, the student demonstrates that he/she has mastered the tasks which are assigned throughout the program. Once the student has demonstrated mastery with all assigned tasks, another NEDP staff member reviews the student’s portfolio of mastery. Skill building workshops are offered to students and provide support for the skills needed to complete the tasks. However, this is a non-instructional program and each student is expected to demonstrate task mastery by using acquired skills that are then applied to solving each assigned task. The student also has the opportunity to demonstrate his or her skills learned through the experiences of life and work. Once the assigned tasks have been mastered, the successful student is awarded a standard high school diploma through the Office of Adult Education. This program offers students an opportunity to direct their own learning. The scheduling is very flexible for working adults and for those who have children at home. The majority of task components can be completed on a computer at any time of day. Completion time varies with each individual, but It usually takes a student six months to a year to complete the tasks and demonstrate mastery. This program is owned by Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) and is managed by Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) Adult Education. The NEDP is administered through the Virginia State Department of Education. The diploma is accepted by colleges, but some colleges may require that adults meet other admissions standards as well.

Registration:

Prospective students attend one of the Information Sessions which are held at the Adult Learning Center, building #4, 14800 Joplin Rd. Manassas, VA 20112 (Independent Hill). Currently during COVID closures, these information sessions are being held via Zoom meetings. Registrants will take a qualifying assessment during the information session and, therefore, no one will be admitted after the scheduled start time. Information sessions will be held virtually until further notice. These sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

* Mondays, 2021, at 10 a.m. and at 7 p.m. on March 8; April 12; May 10; June 7

Cost:

Tuition fees are payable by cash, cashier’s check, or money order. Debit and credit cards are also accepted. All fees are non‐refundable.

* Diagnostic (First Phase) $200.00
* Assessment (Second Phase) $600.00 Payments may be made by one $300.00 payment and three consecutive $100.00 monthly payments.

Non-residents of Prince William County, City of Manassas, or City of Manassas Park will be required to pay $200.00 in additional tuition fees.

To register for Adult Basic Education (ABE), Pre-GED®, GED® classes or for the NEDP:

Email [adulted@pwcs.edu](mailto:adulted@pwcs.edu); Visit <http://adulted.pwcs.edu>; or Call 703.791.7357

Tuition fees associated with PWCS Adult Education programs and services are put back into the costs associated with administering such services. We are a non-profit organization. Financial assistance is available through partnering community organizations for students who qualify for such assistance.