

order to reduce the waiting list for adult education and literacy services to the extent possible.

(ii) In fiscal year 2008, the Governor shall include an appropriation in the State Budget equal to an increase of \$1,500,000 over the fiscal year 2007 appropriation for the Department to distribute as Literacy Works grants for adult education and literacy services.]

[7-205.1.

(a) In this section, "Program" means the Maryland Adult External High School Program established for the citizens of Maryland under regulations adopted by the State Board.

(b) According to these regulations:

(1) The State Board recognizes demonstrated competencies in adults, regardless of whether these competencies were acquired in a formal school setting; and

(2) In response to this recognition of competencies, the Department provides alternative requirements and methods of obtaining a Maryland high school diploma.

(c) (1) Because the Program is a valuable service that is provided to the citizens of Maryland, for each fiscal year the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill submitted to the General Assembly, including any proposed supplemental budget, a General Fund appropriation for the Maryland Adult External High School Program in an amount not less than the amount of the Governor's General Fund appropriation for the Program in fiscal year 2006.

(2) For each fiscal year the Governor shall include federal funds, to the extent available, for the Program in an amount not less than the amount of the Governor's federal fund appropriation for the Program in fiscal year 2006.]

[7-206.

(a) An individual may obtain a high school diploma by examination as provided in this section if the individual:

(1) Has not obtained a high school certificate or diploma;

(2) Has resided in this State or on a federal reservation in this State for at least 3 months, except that the State Board may waive this residence requirement if it considers the waiver justified;