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2023 GED CONFERENCE

GED[®] Option Program: Where to Begin the Discussion

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Welcome



Debi Faucette



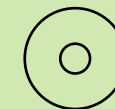
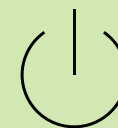
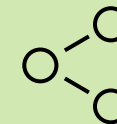
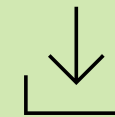
Ann Evers



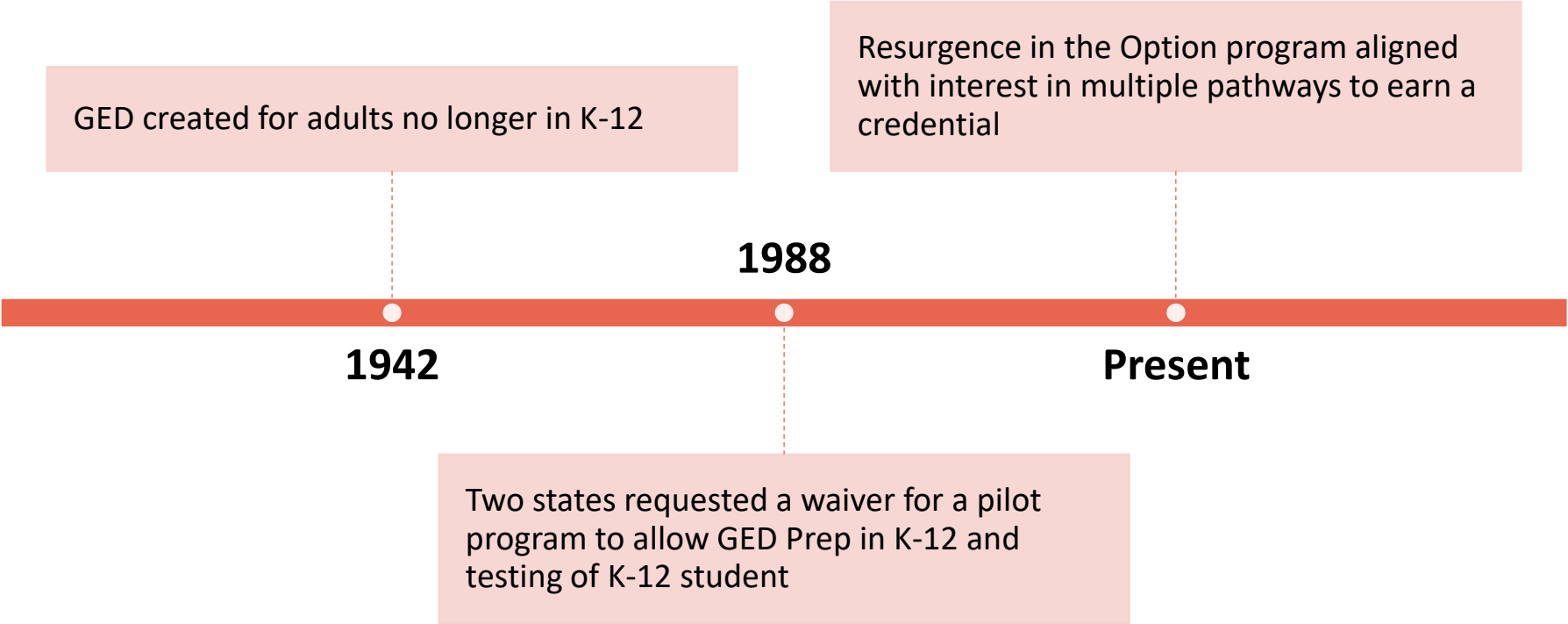
Beth Little

We will share...

- a brief history, overview and current “refresh” of the GED® Option Program
- Mississippi’s history/experience with the GED® Option Program
- strategies for implementation of the program
- answers to your questions when considering next steps



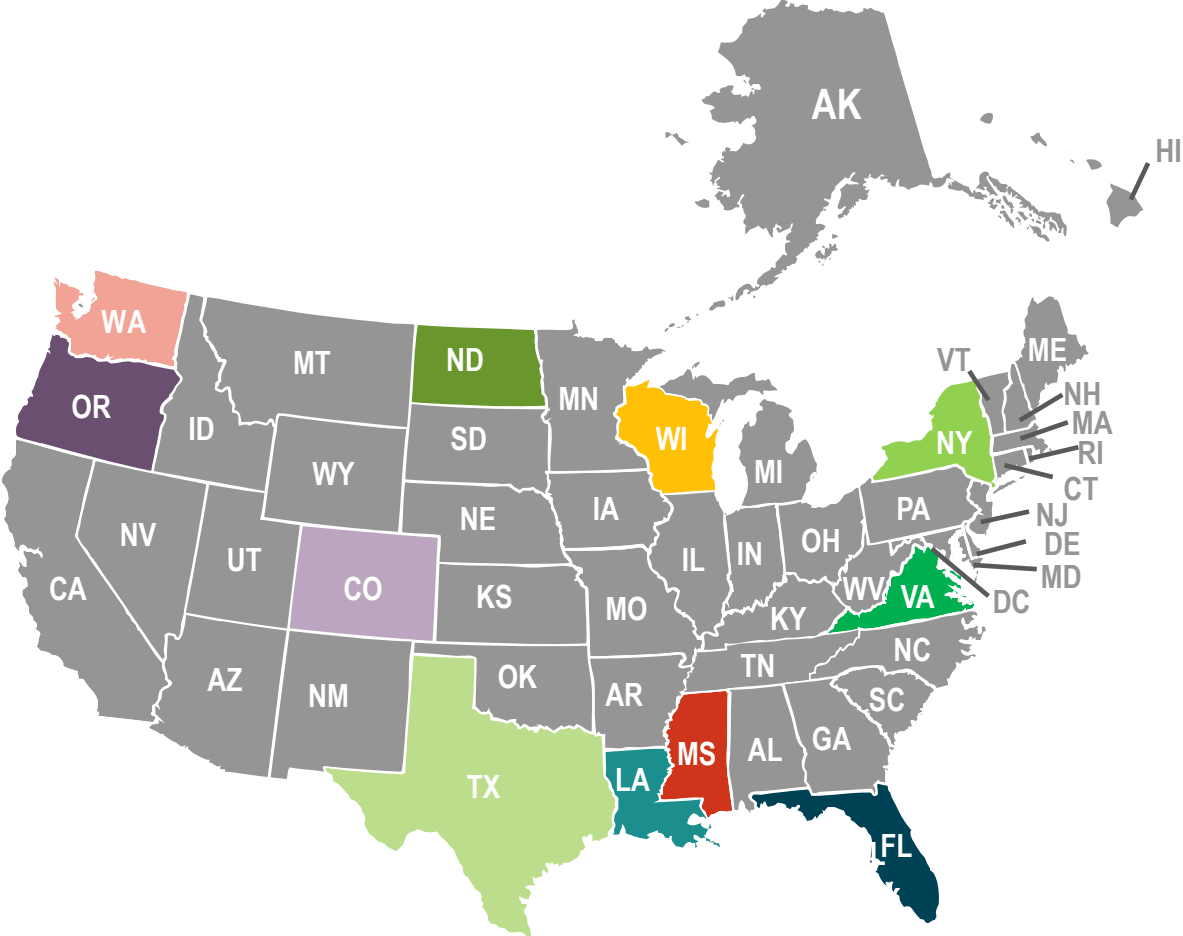
Timeline for GED Option Program





- ✓ An alternative way to attain a high school credential
- ✓ Students receive an individualized learning plan
- ✓ Program is administered locally to best meet student needs
- ✓ Students graduate with their peers
- ✓ Credit-deficient students or students at risk of dropping out stay on track and graduate

Location of GED® Option Programs





The screenshot shows the GED.com website interface. In the top right navigation bar, the link "Educators & Admins" is highlighted with a red circle. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar, a language dropdown set to "English - US", and a "Log In" button with a "SIGN UP" button next to it. On the left side, a vertical menu lists several categories: "GED Program Overview", "Teaching the GED® Test", "State Policies", "Test Administration", "GED Manager", and "GED Option", which is also circled in red. Below this menu is a purple button labeled "Top Resources". The main content area features a large image of students in a classroom with the text "The GED Option" overlaid. Below the image, a paragraph explains that GED Option® is an integral component of a high school curriculum that provides an alternative way to attain a High School Credential for students at risk of dropping out or behind in credits.

Link: https://ged.com/educators_admins/ged-option/

Best Practices for GED Option

Jurisdictions **combine** the GED[®] preparation and test with other state high school requirements **to create an individualized program** for their GED Option students.

- Students achieve a score in the “Green Zone” on each of the of the four content GED Ready[®] practice tests
- Students take and pass all four content GED[®] tests with a minimum score of 145 to earn a High School Credential
 - Reasoning Through Language Arts
 - Mathematical Reasoning
 - Social Studies
 - Science

Instructional Guidelines

- Student participation selection procedures
- Counseling is required
- Curricula and instructional content must be at the high school level
- Sufficient instructional resources and qualified staff must be allocated to GED Option
- Successful students must be awarded a High School Credential
- GED Option graduates should receive official recognition

Administrative and Testing Guidelines

- Planning and oversight of the implementation of GED Option will be the responsibility of the state department of education or other appropriate state agency and will necessitate collaboration.
- The state agency(ies) will annually collect and analyze data and information about GED Option from local programs
- GED® test administration for GED Option must conform to all policies and procedures regarding the GED® test

Administration

Who is responsible for GED Option?

Responsibility will be determined by governance rules in your state.

- Typically, responsibility falls under the K-12 department, in collaboration with Workforce or Adult Education.

What we know about the Option Program

- The Option Program is an additional resource offered students in the K-12 setting who are at risk of dropping out
- The GED[®] Test is a nationally approved assessment for high school completion
- The components of the Option Program have similarities to credit recovery programs and dropout recovery programs
- Consider the Option Program another “spoke in the wheel” that already exists...not trying to reinvent the wheel!

MISSISSIPPI GED Option

Beth Little
Director for Adult Education

The History of GED Option in Mississippi

GED Option programs were sporadic across the state and inconsistent.

There were no procedures in place even though there is MS Law for the GED Option program in the State, along with MDE policy supporting the GED Option Law.

Around 2015, 90% of the K-12 classes ceased, and students began enrolling in local adult education classes. This is also about the time K-12 stopped counting their GED students as completers and were labeled as dropouts. (per MDE policy)

The GED Option programs that remained partnered with the local test site administrators to provide testing.

Reviving our GED Option program

Mississippi wants to offer **all** students the opportunity to be successful and that includes a non-traditional path

Post Pandemic staff changes

- 3 Executive Directors
- 2 Alternative Education Directors

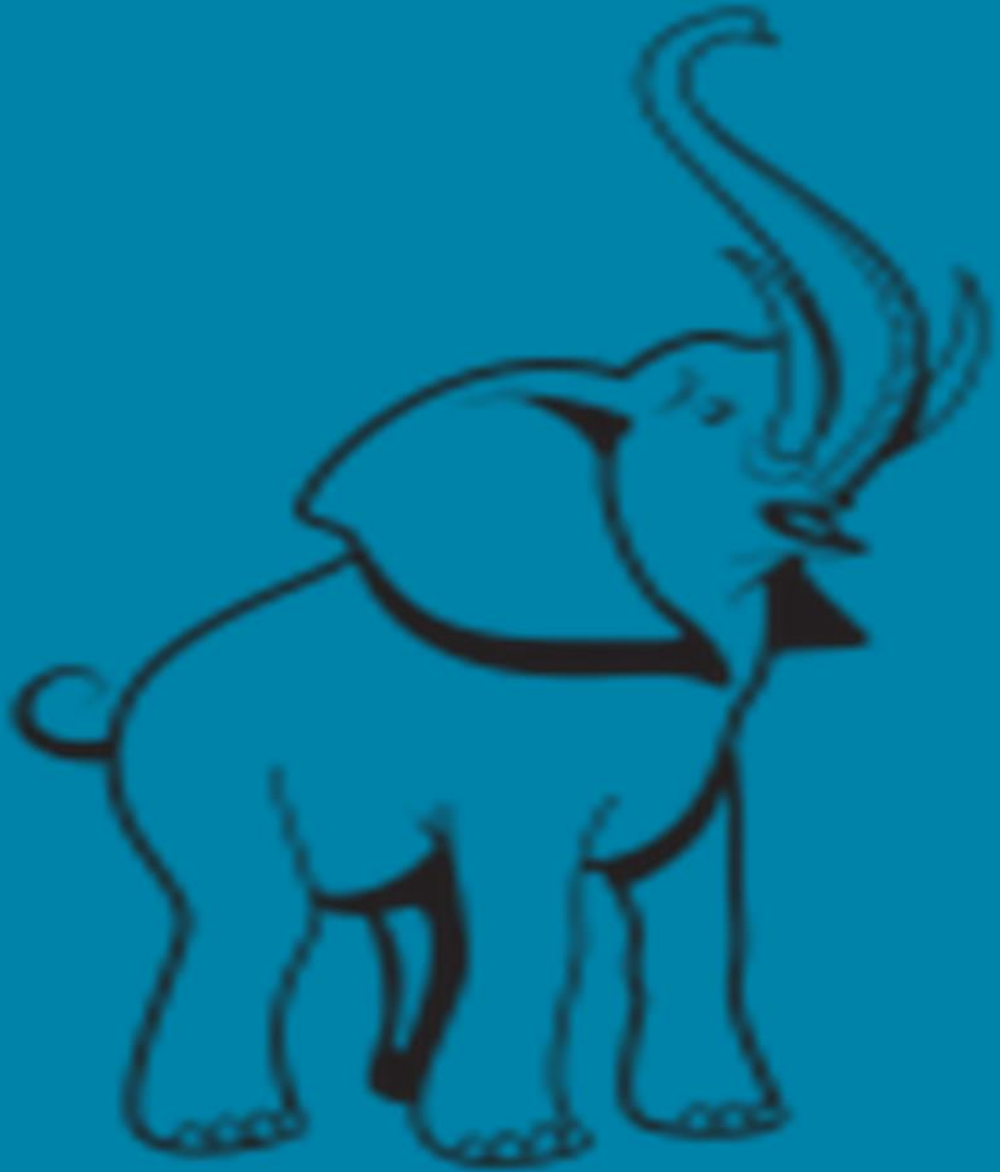
Now inquiring and learning about what GED Option means in Mississippi

What are the next steps?

Where We are Now....

- State Collaboration has been key for getting the program back up and running.
- Adult Education Programs through the community colleges reach a certain population that comes through the public high schools.
- Adult and K-12 Schools want to help one another to meet the needs of the students.
 - Opportunity to strengthen both programs and allow options to an alternate diploma for our Mississippians.
- Meeting to better understand each other's programs.
- Collaborating to develop a training module for K-12 GED staff and developing a K-12 classroom model
- Developing a smooth transition for students wanting to enroll in the community college GED program.

Thank you!



Where to Begin the Discussion?

*From State Administration to
Local Implementation*

GED Option: Essential components

Start the conversation at the State Level

- Why this program?
- What are the benefits for participation/coordination to build the program?
- What are the “pain points” for each partner to consider?
- What resources can be leveraged from each partner to complete the program?

State determines the framework for the program

- What state agency will be the lead?
- How will data, communication and curriculum updates will be coordinated in a timely way to all partners.

State-level answers to these questions will guide the conversations at the local level

GED Option: Essential Components (cont'd)

Start the conversation at the Local Level

Who will start/drive the conversation among partners to answer

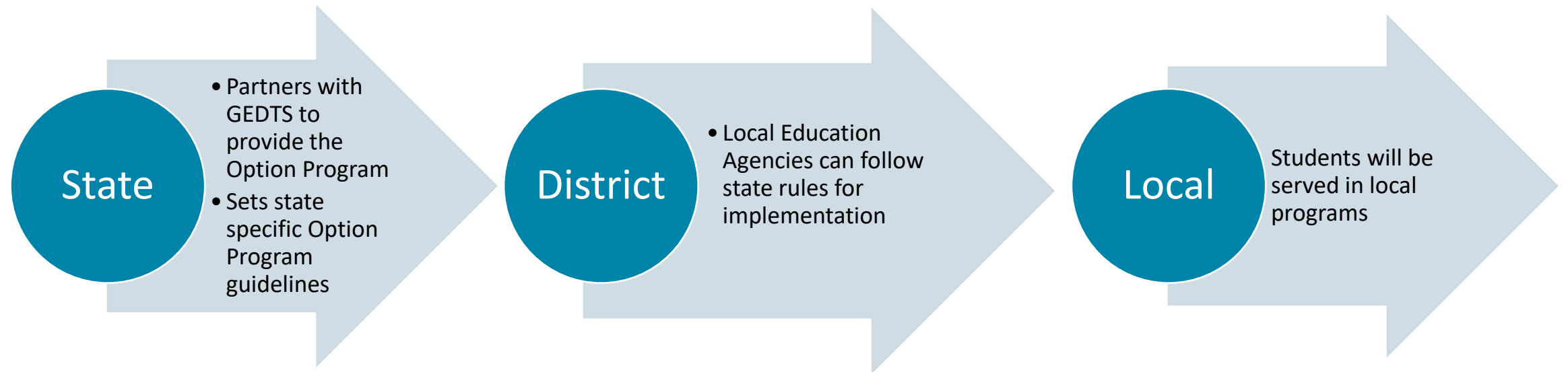
- why this program?
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• Coordinate to determine

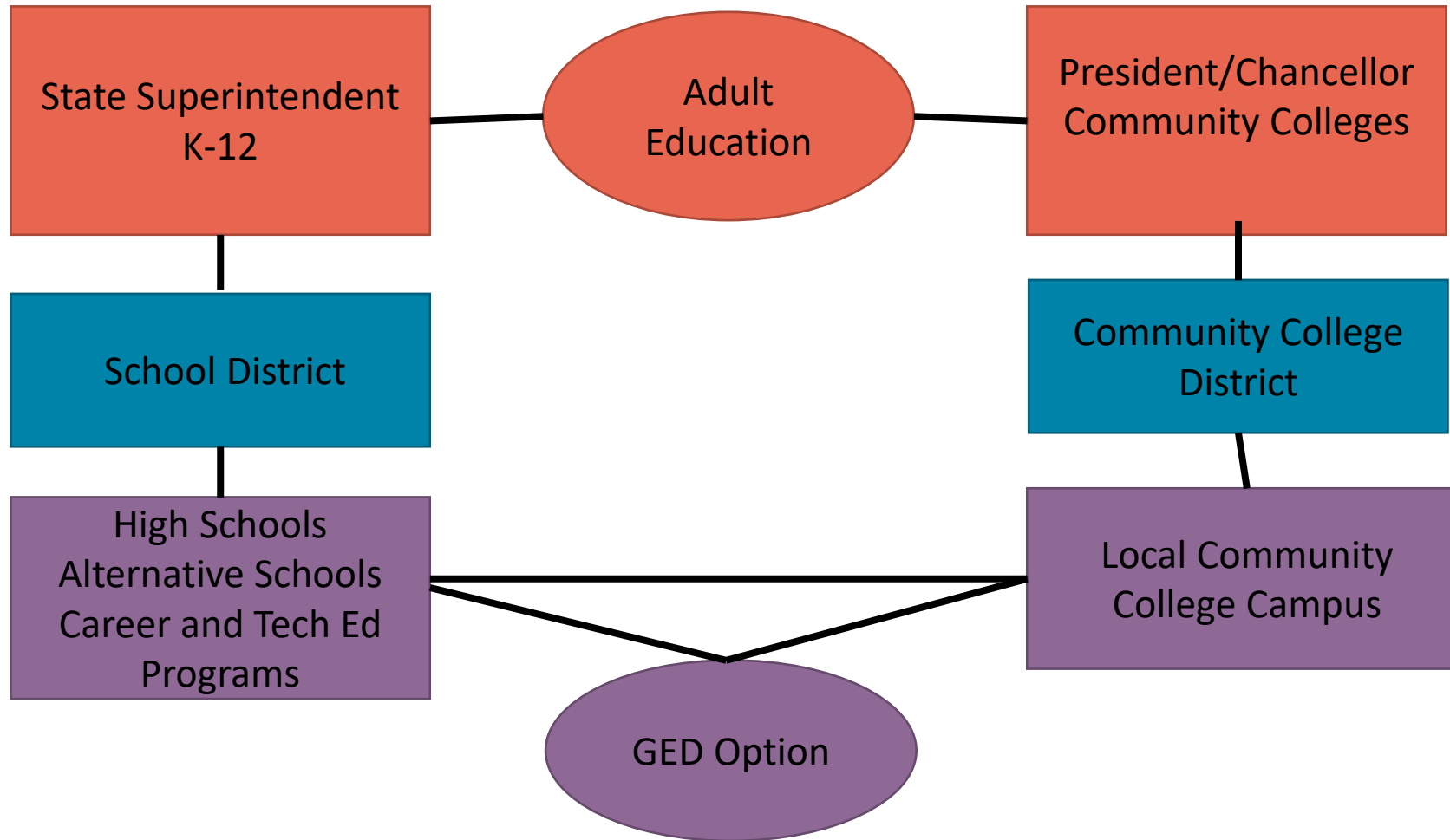
- who will own the program
- what each agency will provide so that each has a financial stake
- ongoing communication to report issues, successes, data collection, etc.
- Curriculum appropriate for GED preparation
- Details, details, details—who will recruit and from where?

Who is the best partner to elevate the discussion to local leadership?

Considerations and Next Steps



GED Option Road Map:



Now, it's your turn!

- Possibilities?
- Roadblocks?
- Partners?
- Curiosity?



Thank You!

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