

# ADULT EDUCATION NATIONAL FACT SHEET



COABE's mission is to inspire educators so adults succeed and communities thrive. We provide leadership, professional development, advocacy, and communication services that encourage greater consciousness and cultural competency in our interactions with teachers, administrators, adult learners, and our partners. We are committed to using our platform and influence to listen to, engage with, and celebrate alongside all of the diverse voices in our adult education communities.

## SUCCESS STORIES

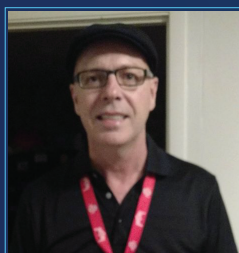
Adult education breaks intergenerational cycles, builds civic engagement, and helps adults acquire the literacy and numeracy skills that they need to take the next step and get a family sustaining job, or enroll in a community college.



### Karina Ravkina-Matousov

Karina, a refugee from Russia, started working in her family's business at a very young age. Juggling work and school caused her to fall behind, and in 11th grade she made the difficult decision to drop out of high school. She enrolled in the Dropout Recovery Program, which

allowed her to work independently on her classes while continuing to hold a job. She excelled and went on to earn multiple credentials including her Master's in Education. She is currently the Assistant Principal of Operations for Los Angeles Unified School District's Division of Adult and Career Education as well as the 2022 COABE State Advocates for Adult Education Fellow for the state of California.



### David Tanner

David started his journey in adult education in 2019 at 58 years old. He had worked in the printing industry for over 30 years before enrolling in adult education classes. After passing his HiSET® exam, he went on to enroll in Chattanooga State Community College

and was awarded the Tennessee Reconnect Scholarship. He is now a college student pursuing a degree in graphic arts and digital media and has earned a 3.0 GPA his first semester. As a result of obtaining his HSE\*, he received a substantial pay raise, and a pathway to upward mobility at his current workplace.



## OUTCOMES (5 YEAR DATA)

- 397,879** Obtained the HSE\* diploma
- 24,397** Took the citizenship test
- 207,061** Participated in Integrated Education Training
- 1,114,692** Connected with employment opportunities

## ADULT EDUCATION BENEFITS

**49%** of family literacy students reported a stronger home to school connection with their child's education.

(Family Centered)

**72%** of individuals entering an adult education program with the stated goal of obtaining their high school diploma achieved that goal. (Achieving Goals)

**45%** of HSE completers go on to higher education with a 90% rate of completion. (Achieving Goals)

**80%** of adult learners report an increase in their use of digital tools since the pandemic. (Digital Resilience)

**78%** of adult learners are people of color. Adult education provides equitable access to a family sustaining wage.

**43%** lower odds of recidivating for inmates receiving adult education services.



## IMPACT

- Average wage earnings increase by **\$9,000** for GED® exam completers.
- Average wage earnings increase by **\$10,000** for every **100 hours** of seat time.
- For every **400,000** adults who earn their high school diploma, the tax base increases by **\$2.5 billion**, and the economy saves **\$200 billion** in reduced costs for public support programs that assist low literacy adults.\*\*
- Every mother that participates in adult education, **breaks intergenerational cycles** of poverty. Research shows that a mother's reading level is the greatest determinant of a child's future academic success, outweighing every other factor including poverty.



\* High School Equivalency

\*\* Sources: American Community Survey, 2013-17, 5-year estimate; National Reporting System; Recovery by Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workplace; Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center



## SUCCESS STORIES

Adult education meets current challenges, stimulates the economy, connects talent to employers, and is an integral part of the workforce system. Additionally, it unifies all four WIOA titles and provides wraparound services to the most marginalized populations.



### Charlene Lull

Charlene, a recently divorced mother of three, enrolled in the federally funded Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program which provides funding for basic needs, including gas to attend adult education classes. At NWACC Adult Education she received the

support she needed to obtain her HSE and earn her Tech Certificate in Criminal Justice in May of 2022. After being connected with the Career Pathways program, Charlene discovered her love for the legal system and will attend law school in the fall.



### Maria Guerrero

Maria entered the Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) program which provides immigrant and refugee adults with instruction in English language acquisition, civics, workforce preparation, and training. Maria wanted to learn English, improve

her communication skills, and expand her job opportunities in this country. She obtained her HSE, and then pursued degree at the university level while working as a student coordinator at Hope Works. Maria said, "This program gave me a second chance to build a career in this country." Her next goal is to obtain her real estate license and provide for her family.

## ADULT LEARNER POPULATION

Displaced Homemakers Re-entering the Workforce / Homeless / English Language Learners / Ex-Offenders / Runaway Youth / Individuals Exhausting TANF / Long-Term Unemployed / Low-Income / Migrant and Seasonal Farm workers / Individuals with Disabilities / Single Parents / Youth in Foster Care

## NATIONAL TOTAL IET PROGRAMS (4 YEAR DATA)

**207,061** National total of IET participants

**155,791** Achieved an industry recognized credential

## “Integrated Education Training (IET)

is a service approach that provides adult education and literacy activities concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement”

(Final WIOA regulations at 34 CFR §463.35).

## ADULT EDUCATION PROVIDES SOLUTIONS

**75.1 million** are low-skilled in numeracy

**51.4 million** are low-skilled in literacy

**43 million** lack the basic skills to compete in the workforce

**30 million** lack a high school diploma; yet all colleges and 63% of all U.S. jobs require at least a HS diploma

**28 million** lack the basic digital skills to operate a computer

[https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/perspectives/PE300/PE342/RAND\\_PE342.pdf](https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/perspectives/PE300/PE342/RAND_PE342.pdf)

## UNDERFUNDED

Adult education receives **\$580** on average per adult learner of federal funding compared to **\$10,000** per pupil for elementary education.