

WHO WE ARE

COABE is the leading association for adult education, representing 79,000 adult educators and leaders around the country. Our teachers and leaders provide numeracy, literacy, English language skills, digital and information literacy, work readiness, soft skills, high school equivalency and numerous wraparound services to more than 1.1 million adult learners nationwide. With over 2,300 WIOA Title II programs around the country, COABE members work tirelessly to help underserved adults master the skills they need to build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities, which in turn strengthens the economy by enabling businesses to fill in-demand jobs.

NATIONAL NUMBERS AT-A-GLANCE

\$580 per adult learner

→ **43** million adults with low literacy skills

\$1.1M total enrollment*

→ **62.7** million adults with low numeracy skills

ADULT LEARNING ECOSYSTEM ¹

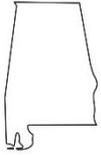


COABE's WIOA Recommendations:

COABE has worked closely with program directors, educators, learners, employers and stakeholders to develop its WIOA recommendations, so they are responsive to the needs of the field. **All of COABE's WIOA recommendations are included in the bipartisan Adult Education WORKS Act (S. 3075)**, introduced by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Todd Young (R-IN). The Adult Education WORKS Act would:

- Ensure better planning and coordination within and across the workforce system and more effective use of resources by including adult education providers as representatives on state and local workforce boards.
- Promote more Integrated Education and Training (IETs), which ensure training is provided concurrently and contextually with other adult education activities and services to move adults through the system and into jobs that pay family-sustaining wages more quickly.
- Expand professional development to advance the skills of adult educators, increase the utilization of updated best practices in their classrooms and foster career pathway programs and the professionalization of the adult education field so more adult learners are taught by highly qualified educators.
- Place greater emphasis on incorporating critical and in-demand digital and information literacy lessons into adult education and workforce development programs.
- Authorize an innovative pilot for states and local programs to test out new metrics, replace failing metrics and enhance accountability.
- Support college and career navigators, community-based organizations, and libraries to help learners explore college and work interests and identify the skills and education needed to meet work opportunities in their communities and beyond.
- Double the authorized funding level for adult education by Fiscal Year 2027 to \$1.35 billion, signaling a need for greater investment to move our economy forward and give skills to the millions of adults without high school degrees and move our economy.

Examples of Adult Education Programs in Your States



ALABAMA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$698
- Total Enrollment: 14,351
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 361,692

Case Study: Shelton State Community College (SSCC)

Bibb and Tuscaloosa, AL

Program Sites: Community college, public schools, and correctional facilities.

Summary: SSCC offers free adult education classes to prepare for the GED, co-enroll in a Career Pathway course, earn a Workplace Success credential to obtain a CDL permit, increase English language proficiency, and/or complete a non-traditional high school diploma. Its digital literacy classes help students prepare for college and the workplace by teaching them how to navigate Microsoft Excel and Windows. SSCC offers co-enrollment opportunities for qualifying students in which they can concurrently attend credit and/or non-credit courses while earning a GED or Non-Traditional High School Diploma on a path to an in-demand career path.



ALASKA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$1,170
- Total Enrollment: 933
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 33,720

Case Study: Kenai Peninsula College

Soldotna and Homer, AK

Program Site: Community college.

Summary: Kenai Peninsula Regional Adult Education Program offers classes in ESL, High School Equivalency, Computer Literacy, Life Skills, and Transition to College (for those not in high school). Its IET programs provides pathways to Office Skills & Technology, Teacher's Aide, and Veterinary Assistant. In FY24, 58.33% of learners earned a credential. The program's region encompasses a total of 25,600 square miles, of which 15,700 square miles are land. In comparison, the total land mass equals that of Massachusetts and New Jersey combined.



COLORADO – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$2,183
- Total Enrollment: 3,715
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 301,510

Case Study: Adult and Family Education, Colorado Springs School District #11

Colorado Springs, CO

Program Site: Academic campus.

Summary: The Adult and Family Education Program at Colorado Springs School District #11 offers English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education, and GED preparation. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the program served 786 students. Its Family Literacy program provides a unique opportunity for adult learners residing within District 11 boundaries to attend adult ed classes while their children receive age-appropriate literacy instruction.



CONNECTICUT – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$469
- Total Enrollment: 12,469
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 180,330

Case Study: Naugatuck Adult & Continuing Education

Naugatuck, Wolcott, and Oxford, CT

Program Sites: High school and Job Center.

Summary: Naugatuck Adult Education offers free ESL, Family Literacy, Citizenship, Adult Basic Education, and High School Completion classes. Students are also provided support services including career navigation, transition counseling (for transition to post-secondary education and training), digital literacy, etc. Integrated Education and Training Certification programs such as ServSafe – Food Handler, Customer Service, and more are also offered. Its site at the Waterbury American Job Center offers high school completion via the National External Diploma Program.



INDIANA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$602
- Total Enrollment: 19,430
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 429,250

Case Study: Washington Township Adult Education

Indianapolis and Noblesville, IN

Program Sites: Public libraries, schools, faith-based settings, community colleges, etc.

Summary: Washington Township Adult Education provides a full array of adult education services and career training to more than 1,600 learners and was awarded the “Program of Excellence” from the state’s Department of Workforce Development. In 2022, it partnered with employers to secure 246 Workforce Education Initiative enrollments. It also provides Integrated Education and Training Certification programs such as certified nursing assistant, medical interpreting, welding, paraprofessional, and many more.



KANSAS – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$833
- Total Enrollment: 5,213
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 156,671

Case Study: Johnson County Adult Education (JCAE)

Overland Park, KS

Program Site: Community college.

Summary: Since 1985, JCAE has partnered with Johnson County Community College at the County Library to help educationally disadvantaged adults improve their skills to increase their employability options. Approximately 1,500 students per year are served at JCAE’s six program centers throughout Johnson County. Students receive instruction in ESL, Adult Basic Education, and GED preparation and high school diploma completion. JCAE also helps adults improve their digital literacy and workplace readiness skills. JCAE serves the whole student through supports in basic needs resources and full transitional services to college and career placement.



KENTUCKY – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$1,040
- Total Enrollment: 8,830
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 298,377

Case Study: Henderson Community College

Henderson, KY

Program Site: Community college.

Summary: The mission of Henderson Community College's Adult Education program is to help adults learn to read, write, and speak in English and to compute and solve problems at the level each individual needs to function on the job, in college, and in society. The following resources are offered free of charge to citizens of Henderson County: Resources for improving basic employment skills-reading, writing, and mathematics; Skill assessments; TABE testing and remediation; ESL; Academic Skills; GED preparation.



LOUISIANA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$927
- Total Enrollment: 10,604
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 373,455

Case Study: Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC)

Bossier City, Natchitoches, and Many, LA

Program Site: Community college.

Summary: BPCC's College Transition Program provides High School Equivalency, career pathways, English language services, citizenship, computer literacy, and workplace literacy programs. As part of its College Transition Program, BPCC created the "5 for 6 Scholarship" awarded to individuals without a high school diploma or equivalency who wish to enroll at a Louisiana community or technical college.



MAINE – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$400
- Total Enrollment: 4,592
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 51,563

Case Study: Westbrook Adult Education

Westbrook, ME

Program Site: Regional vocational center.

Summary: Westbrook Adult Education offers courses in business & skills training, college transitions, GED & high school completion, literacy, and personal enrichment. Its career and technical education (CTE) program offers entry ways into high-demand professions such as technology, transportation, healthcare, hospitality, and skilled trades. Recently, 13 CNA students graduated from the program, all of whom are employed or are continuing their education.



MASSACHUSETTS – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$625
- Total Enrollment: 19,419
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 350,578

Case Study: Julie's Family Learning Program

Boston, MA

Program Site: Adult learning center.

Summary: Julie's Family Learning Program implements a "total care" approach for each adult learner and family by providing an array of services that include remote and in-person adult basic education classes, digital literacy, job readiness, life management, family literacy programming, counseling, adult and child educational tutoring, and infant, toddler, and preschool services. Last fiscal year, Julie's served 162 learners.



MINNESOTA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$282
- Total Enrollment: 24,297
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 233,546

Case Study: Robbinsdale Community Education

Crystal, MN

Program Site: Adult learning center.

Summary: Robbinsdale Community Education's Adult Academic Program offers programs for English language learners (ELL), GED classroom instruction, and additional support for students including 20 computer workstations for students who don't have reliable technology. Its team of more than 30 licensed teachers and support staff is committed to providing a flexible, caring, and friendly environment for learning. Through the Family Literacy Program, parents can work on earning a GED or diploma improving their academic skills, or learning English at the Adult Academic Program while their child attends Early Childhood Family Education (preschool).



NEW HAMPSHIRE – [Click Here for More Information](#)

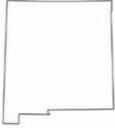
- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$773
- Total Enrollment: 2,373
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 51,991

Case Study: Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County

Dover, NH

Program Site: Adult learning center.

Summary: The Dover Adult Learning Center provides comprehensive educational opportunities, including English Language Learning, High School completion, and college training & workforce preparation. In collaboration with the Dover Regional Career and Technical Center, it is currently piloting an "After Hours" program, merging Career & Technical Education with adult education services. With over 80 dedicated tutors engaged in its adult tutorial program, the center demonstrates a commitment to personalized learning and student success.



NEW MEXICO – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$832
- Total Enrollment: 6,054
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 165,808

Case Study: San Juan College

Farmington, NM

Program Site: Community college.

Summary: San Juan College's Academic and Career Engagement (ACE) Center prepares students for the GED or HiSET exams, college courses, and the workforce. It also offers free programs for English language learners and adults who want to improve their literacy skills. Its programs have strong student retention support in place, which include an intense orientation and very short, intensive courses, designed to keep learners engaged, and maximize outcomes. It served 986 students in FY23 and had 72.86% measurable skill gains.



NORTH CAROLINA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

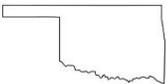
- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$528
- Total Enrollment: 37,218
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 662,010

Case Study: Alamance Community College

Graham and Burlington, NC

Program Site: Community college.

Summary: Alamance Community College's College and Career Readiness Department offers ESL, Adult Basic Literacy Education, and High School Equivalency classes. It has established multiple community partnerships enabling it to serve 1000+ individuals. It developed and freely shared statewide its High School Equivalency in the Community print correspondence course, which was approved by the State of North Carolina for distance learning, to reach individuals with transportation and technology barriers. This instructional course became the saving grace to many—especially correctional programs—during the pandemic.



OKLAHOMA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$1,044
- Total Enrollment: 6,888
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 277,680

Case Study: Oklahoma City Community College

Oklahoma City, OK

Program Site: Community College.

Summary: Oklahoma City Community College Adult Education offers ESL and ELL classes, as well as free classes to help students earn a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma. It also offers career training and certification classes for a variety of careers with a variety of funding options. Examples of career training options include Microsoft MOS Training and Pharmacy Technician.



PENNSYLVANIA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

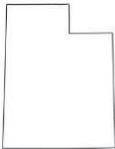
- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$1,525
- Total Enrollment: 12,930
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 641,567

Case Study: Keystone Opportunity Center

Souderton, PA

Program Sites: Public libraries and teaching sites.

Summary: Keystone Opportunity Center's Adult Education Department offers free English as a Second Language (ESL), English Language/Civics (citizenship), pre-high school equivalency, and High School Equivalency (HSE) instruction through classes and tutoring. It serves approximately 465 adult learners annually across Souderton, Lansdale, Willow Grove, and Norristown. Students from its 2022 class originated from 42 countries across 5 continents.



UTAH – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$313
- Total Enrollment: 12,280
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 147,317

Case Study: Davis Adult Education

Kaysville, UT

Program Sites: Adult learning center and correctional facility.

Summary: Davis Adult Education provides adult basic education, adult secondary completion, and English language acquisition services. It has a site at the Davis County Jail, providing adult education services for students who are incarcerated. Davis Adult Education has Integrated Education and Training programs in CNA, Business/IT, and Teacher's Assistant. It served 970 students in 2022-2023, awarded 227 diplomas/GEDs, and had 63.4% measurable skill gains.



VERMONT – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$749
- Total Enrollment: 1,210
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 25,839

Case Study: Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS)

Newport, St. Johnsbury, Hardwick, Island Pond, and Canaan, VT

Program Sites: Adult learning centers, some of which are housed in public libraries and faith-based settings.

Summary: NEKLS offers alternative education, adult education, job training, child care, and learning support services to residents of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. In 2023, NEKLS served 165 adult education and literacy students, amounting to 8,840 instructional hours. Its Step Up to Child Care Program provides all state requirements to work in child care at no cost to participants. Its High School Completion, Transition, and ESOL programs put Vermonters on the path to higher wages.



VIRGINIA – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$1,029
- Total Enrollment: 14,152
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 441,318

Case Study: Thomas Jefferson Adult Career Education (TJACE)

Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, and Louisa, VA

Program Sites: Adult education centers housed in Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) and public schools.

Summary: TJACE @PVCC offers instruction to over 600 adults to help them enhance core academic skills and earn a high school diploma or GED, improve English Language Skills for speakers of other languages, and prepare for next career steps through integrated education and training programs. Over two years, its award-winning program, Network2Work@PVCC, has secured jobs for 74% of its job-seekers within six months of enrollment. Over half of those jobs pay more than \$30,000 annually and these job-seekers had an average wage gain of 109%.



WASHINGTON – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$453
- Total Enrollment: 25,667
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 420,078

Case Study: South Puget Sound Community College

Olympia, WA

Program Site: Community college.

Summary: The classes provided through South Puget Sound Community College's Transition Studies Program include I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training), HS+ (High School+), GED (GED Preparation Classes), and ESL. Each quarter, it offers two digital literacy sections: one for native English speakers, and one for English Language Learners. For a flat fee of \$35 per quarter, students can take as many Transition Studies classes as they would like.



WISCONSIN – [Click Here for More Information](#)

- WIOA Title II Funds per Learner: \$707
- Total Enrollment: 10,637
- Working Age Adults w/o High School Education: 257,122

Case Study: Madison Area Technical College

Madison, WI

Program Site: Technical college.

Summary: Madison College provides a range of programs catering to diverse educational needs, including ESL classes and GED/HSED support, with ESL courses offered tuition-free. Through its Bridge Program, students are equipped with essential skills and opportunities to seamlessly transition into college, offering pathways such as an Apprenticeship, Chemistry/Math, and Caminos Nursing Assistant Bridge program.