



Adult Education National Fact Sheet

Our vision is to see that adult education is recognized as the catalyst for empowering individuals, strengthening families, and enriching communities.

Adult Learner Population

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

Adult Learner 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.



Miasha Melvin

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.



Mike Hatten

Adult education gave Eddie hope during his incarceration. After spending his 21st birthday in jail, Eddie knew he needed to accomplish something for himself. He studied hard and completed his GED® credential, and upon reentry he came out brimming with ideas for how to make something of himself.

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 is Underfunded

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

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

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



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Our mission is to lead, equip, and empower the field of adult education, inspiring transformative growth in every adult to achieve their full potential.

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

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Caixia Jiang

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Eddie Rivera

After a turbulent teenhood, Eddie Rivera found himself incarcerated, but not forgotten. Adult education breathed life into the dreams he had always had, and upon reentry, Eddie began to chase his second chance with everything he had.

Adult Education Benefits

- 49%** of family literacy students reported a stronger home to school connection with their children’s education.
- 90%** of individuals entering the adult ed program with the stated goal of obtaining their high school diploma achieved that goal.
- 45%** of HSE completers go on to higher education with a 90% rate of completion.
- 80%** of adult education students report an increase in their use of digital tools since the pandemic.
- 78%** of adult learners are people of color. Adult education provides equal access.
- 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.