



Educate & Advocate!

Adult Education & Family Literacy Week

COABE's Flood the Hill: What You Need to Know

What is Flood the Hill?

Flood the Hill is a national advocacy event during Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) Week, where adult learners, educators, and supporters gather in Washington, D.C., to meet with Members of Congress and share the impact of adult education in their communities.



Why should I attend Flood the Hill?— Because your story is powerful—and it needs to be heard at the highest level. When you show up in person, you're not just another email or statistic—you're a face, a voice, a story that makes the funding fight real. Lawmakers are more likely to support adult education when they hear from the people whose lives are directly transformed by it.

It's also a once-in-a-lifetime leadership experience. You'll meet changemakers from across the country, gain national-level advocacy skills, and walk the halls of Congress with confidence.

When and where is it taking place?

- **Dates:** Mon, 9/16 (late afternoon)-Tues, 9/17 (evening)
- **Location:** Washington, D.C.—training at at the hotel; breakfast and congressional briefing at the Senate

Who should attend?

Anyone passionate about adult education, including adult learners, alumni, educators, program staff, state association representatives, and workforce partners. No prior advocacy experience is required!

What will I do during Flood the Hill?

- Participate in training and orientation
- Take part in a congressional briefing
- Attend scheduled Congressional meetings (in teams)
- Share your story or program success
- Take part in social media and photo ops
- Connect with other advocates from across the country

Do I need to schedule my own meetings with legislators?

No—COABE will coordinate meetings and provide support. Some states may organize additional meetings or events in partnership with COABE.



Will there be training or materials provided?

Yes, all participants will receive:

- An orientation before the event
- Talking points and fact sheets
- State-specific data
- Templates and tips for sharing your story



The following meals will be provided by COABE:

- Monday dinner
- Tuesday breakfast
- Tuesday dinner



How can I prepare my story to share with legislators?

COABE will offer guidance, sample story formats, and optional coaching calls before AEFL Week.

What if I can't come to DC?

We suggest that you consider bringing Flood the Hill to your state capitol. If you need help planning an event at your capitol, refer to the [Flood the State Hill handbook](#) and [COABE State Advocacy Toolkit.pdf](#).

For personalized support, contact advocacy@coabe.org.



Is there a cost to attend?

There is no fee to participate in Flood the Hill itself, but attendees are responsible for travel and lodging costs. Some scholarships or state support may be available.

How do I sign up?

You can register through [COABE's 2026 AEFL Week webpage](#). Space may be limited, so early registration is encouraged.

While we love our vendor partners, vendor partnership is exclusive to Essential Education for this event. Please contact info@coabe.org for information about future sponsorship opportunities. Registration opens in July.

Is there a hotel block?

More information about hotels will be available in the summer 2026.

