

Adult Education Changes Trajectories

Together, the Educate & Elevate Foundation and COABE envision a future where every adult learner and their family can thrive—powered by strong local programs, equipped educators, engaged partners, and equitable access to the resources, research, and professional learning that advance adult education nationwide.

Workforce Re-Entry & Economic Contribution

Adult education meets current challenges, stimulates the economy, and connects talent to employers.

Eddie Rivera

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 HSE and upon reentry came out brimming with ideas. Today, Eddie is the proud owner of his own barber shop. He also paints murals.

3,754,550

ADULT LEARNERS
CONNECTED WITH
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

43%

LOWER ODDS OF
RECIDIVISM FOR
INMATES RECEIVING
SERVICES

+\$9,000

AVERAGE WAGE
INCREASE FOR GED
EXAM COMPLETERS

+\$10,000

AVERAGE WAGE
INCREASE FOR EVERY
100 SEAT HOURS

The Economic Impact of Academic Attainment

Adult education meets current challenges, stimulates the economy, connects talent to employers, and serves as an integral part of the workforce system. It unifies all four WIOA titles and provides essential wraparound services to the most marginalized populations, ensuring equitable access to economic mobility.

Educational Milestone	Economic Benefits & Tax Base Impact	Community & Fiscal Savings
High School Equivalency (HSE) Completion	Average annual wage earnings increase of \$9,000 for GED exam completers, scaling with continuous training.	For every 400,000 adults who earn their HSE, the tax base increases by \$2.5 Billion.
100+ Hours of Active Seat Time	Average wage earnings increase by \$10,000 for every 100 hours of structured seat time.	Dramatically reduces reliance on public support programs, saving the economy \$200 Billion overall.
Incarcerated Learner Services	Equips inmates with foundational literacy, numeracy, and vocational skills prior to release.	43% lower odds of recidivating, breaking generational cycles of crime and incarceration.

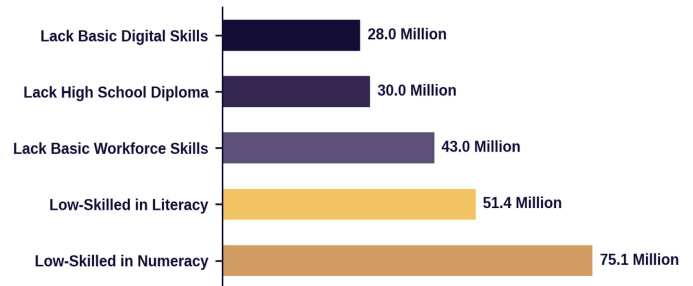
English Proficiency & Career Pathways

Empowering non-native speakers to navigate, integrate, and achieve professional success.

Caixia Jiang

Adult education gave Caixia the place she needed to navigate a new country. After giving birth to her daughter, Caixia felt overwhelmed trying to find a new job because her English skills were low. After enrolling in an adult ed program, she not only improved her English, she obtained her HSE. Today, Caixia is a pharmacy technician and is able to support her daughter.

Adult Foundational Skill Gaps (National)



The Role of Integrated Education & Training (IET)

Integrated Education and Training (IET) is a highly effective, accelerated service approach that concurrently and contextually provides adult education, literacy activities, workforce preparation, and training for a specific occupation. This model allows non-native speakers and low-skilled adult learners to rapidly advance their careers and integrate socially and economically.

268,343 IET PARTICIPANTS NATIONAL TOTAL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES	88,309 CITIZENSHIP TEST TAKERS SUPPORTING CIVIC INTEGRATION & INVOLVEMENT	43 Million LOW-SKILLED WORKERS LACK BASIC SKILLS TO COMPETE IN WORKFORCE
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WIOA Mandate Component	Description of Action & Delivery	National Program Goal
Adult Education & Literacy	Concurrently teaches English language skills and general academic/literacy development.	Equip learners to secure family-sustaining jobs or progress to secondary education.
Workforce Preparation	Integrates critical soft skills, digital literacy training, and critical thinking development.	Ensure all adult learners are adaptable and ready for modern workplace demands.
Occupational Training	Provides direct hands-on training for high-demand, high-growth local occupational clusters.	Empower rapid educational, social, and financial advancement in local communities.

Adult Literacy & High School Equivalency

Fulfilling educational milestones, fueling higher education, and boosting local economies.

Mike Hatten

Adult education filled Mike with hope after years of getting by without the ability to read well. By the time he was 16, he dropped out and had a smattering of jobs. He knew he had to finish his education, and at the age of 53, Mike went back and got his HSE. Today, Mike has obtained his journeyman's license as an HVAC technician.

407,361

FIVE-YEAR TOTAL
OF HSE DIPLOMAS
OBTAINED

90%

GOAL
ACHIEVEMENT FOR
DIPLOMA-SEEKING
ENTRANTS

45%

OF HSE
COMPLETERS WHO
ENROLL IN HIGHER
EDUCATION

90%

COLLEGE
COMPLETION
RATE FOR HSE
STUDENTS

The Pipeline from Equivalency to Higher Education

Adult literacy and High School Equivalency (HSE) programs are not terminal milestones — they are launching pads. By preparing adult learners with rigorous academic and study skills, they ensure that once a student enters higher education, they possess the grit and foundation to complete their degrees at a staggering 90% rate.

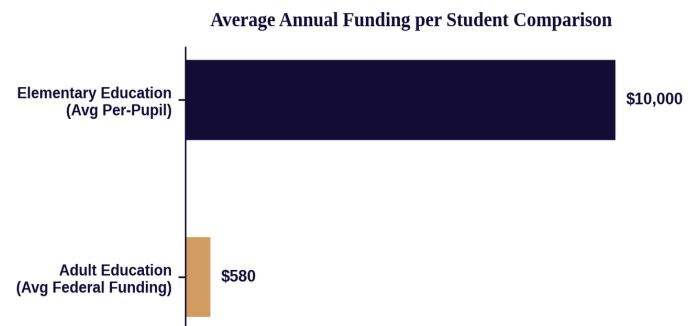
Academic Level / Goal	National Scale of Need	Verified HSE Program Success Rates
High School Diploma Completion	30 Million adults lack a high school diploma. 63% of U.S. jobs require one.	90% of individuals entering the program with the goal of obtaining a diploma achieved it.
Higher Education Transition	Critical for unlocking high-wage, specialized professional careers.	45% of HSE completers go on to higher education, transforming their economic outlook.
Post-Secondary Degree Completion	Overcoming historic drop-out barriers via adult education support.	HSE completers who enter college achieve an exceptional 90% rate of degree completion.

Intergenerational Mobility & Family Literacy

Breaking the cycles of poverty, enhancing family connections, and investing in our future.

Miasha Melvin

After losing her father at fifteen years old, Miasha could not focus and gave up on high school. After enrolling in an adult education program, Miasha loved the change of pace. She excelled, and in no time was able to achieve her diploma. Today, Miasha has finished her Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) degree at Vanderbilt University Law School. She plans to use her skills to advocate for adult learners.



The Maternal & Generational Determinator

Research demonstrates that a mother's reading level is the greatest determinant of a child's future academic success, completely outweighing other critical socio-economic factors such as poverty. Every single mother who participates in adult education actively breaks intergenerational cycles of poverty, shaping the educational outcomes of future generations.

49% STRONGER HOME CONNECTIONS MOTHERS INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	805,750 INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS EARNED ACCELERATING FAMILY ECONOMIC INCOME	80% DIGITAL TOOL ADOPTION INCREASED DIGITAL SKILLS SINCE PANDEMIC
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Intergenerational Indicator	Observed Educational Impact	Equal Access & Opportunity
Maternal Reading Level	The single greatest predictor of a child's academic success, outweighing poverty.	Participating in adult education breaks generational cycles of poverty.
Home-to-School Connection	49% of family literacy students reported a stronger home-to-school connection.	Fosters deep parent-child-school bonds that boost learning outcomes.
Equity & Equal Access	78% of adult education students are people of color.	Provides robust, equal, and fair access to career opportunities and stability.