



The Role of Adult Education in the Workforce Development System

Educational preparation for improved literacy, numeracy, and English language proficiency is a key to a better quality of life. According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, over 700,000 Virginia adults do not have a high school diploma or high school credential, and many more lack literacy in critical areas such as math or workforce preparation skills.

How does adult education support Virginia's workforce development goals?

Adult education providers teach academic and employability skills that lead to higher wages, transition learners to further education and training, increase adults' English language proficiency, and help parents become more involved in their children's education.

How can adult education support Virginia businesses?

Adult education providers can design an integrated education and training program to meet local occupational skill needs; offer classes at worksites to improve employees' academic skills, workforce preparation, and English language proficiency; and connect local businesses with adults who are work-ready, lifelong learners. These services are provided through federal, state, and local funds.



Between July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2018, Virginia adult education reported:

- **57,525 participants**; nearly a quarter were ages 16-24 and over half were ages 25-44
- **14,132** high school equivalency credentials (e.g. GED®) earned
- **8,662** participants who made gains in academic and career readiness skills
- **14,271** participants who made gains in English language proficiency
- **237** industry-recognized credentials earned

Top industries where participants are employed after leaving the program:

- Accommodations and Food Services (22%)
- Retail Trade (16%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (14%)
- Administrative and Support Services (13%)
- Manufacturing (10%)
- Other (25%)

Our participants are

- **Workers**, more than 50 percent report being employed when they enroll
- **Lifelong learners**, enrolling in postsecondary education and training during and after leaving the program
- **Work-ready**, equipped with valuable workplace preparation skills such as critical thinking, digital literacy, self-management, and employability skills
- **The workforce of today**, gaining additional skills and credentials to put to use immediately

Our instructors are

- **Experienced, dedicated and trained** – engaging in over 7,000 hours of professional development in a single program year

Our partners include

- Regional workforce development boards and operators of the Virginia Career Works Centers
- State partners such as the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), and the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Community non-profit service organizations such as Goodwill Industries, the United Way, and local literacy volunteer chapters



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