



Adult Education National Fact Sheet

Our vision is for adult education to be 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



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 degree at Vanderbilt University Law School. She plans to use her skills to advocate for adult learners.

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 and dreams to become an electrician.

National Total IET Programs (4 Year Data)

249,305 National total of IET participants

94,733 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.