Adult Education: Your Partner in Workforce Development

Adult basic education programs teach Pennsylvania adults the critical skills needed for workplace, postsecondary, and training program success. Adult education programs are committed to building relationships with workforce development partners to ensure that Pennsylvanians have economic and educational success. The adult basic education services funded under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) are administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Division of Adult Education. There are 59 division-funded programs across the state. All local workforce areas in Pennsylvania have some adult basic education programming available.

A map and list of programs is available on the Pennsylvania Adult Education Resources website (www.paadultedresources.org) under "Find and Adult Education Program." For general information about adult education services under WIOA, email the Division of Adult Education at RA-ABLE@pa.gov, or call 717-772-3737.

Services Provided by Funded Programs

- Basic skills instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics from beginning literacy to high school level, including workplace and postsecondary education/training preparation;
- Classes to prepare adults to take and pass high school equivalency tests;
- English as a Second Language and English Literacy/civics classes;
- Family Literacy programming;
- Integrated education and training programs; and
- Employability skills development integrated into basic skills instruction, including:
  o Digital literacy skills;
  o Working with others;
  o Critical thinking skills;
  o Workplace skills; and
  o Using resources and information.

All services provided under grants from PDE's Division of Adult Education are free of charge.

Eligible Participants

- At least 16 years of age;
- Not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under Pennsylvania law;
- Basic skills deficient; or do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; or who are English language learners.

Student Outcomes

- Improve reading, writing and math skills;
- Enroll in college or training;
- Obtain a new or better job; and
- Obtain a high school equivalency credential.

Examples of Potential Partnerships

- ***Building career pathways that meet employers' needs –*** Teams comprised of adult education providers, local board and one-stop center staff, and other workforce partners work with local employers to determine industry-specific career pathways from entry-level employment to advanced positions. Employers provide information to build the paths so the adult education program can provide basic skills instruction along with career planning and

employment preparation that help students build the skills that address the needs of local employers.

- ***Supporting postsecondary and training program success –*** Adult education providers and postsecondary education and training providers work together to help adult education students understand the opportunities for continuing their education and to support the students in completing the steps to transition. Students attend adult basic education programs to develop the academic and self-management skills to succeed in the postsecondary education/training opportunities.

- ***Coordinating resources and sharing information -*** Workforce development partners, adult education providers, and community agencies meet regularly to share employer needs, local job market data, and resources. Partners collaborate to connect job seekers with programs to support work and education goals.

- ***Overcoming barriers to support workforce success –*** Adult education providers work with community social service agencies to help students address barriers and become self-sufficient. Referrals to community and workforce development partners allow students to build academic and workplace skills while addressing other critical needs. In some communities, employers have provided additional funding to support services to eliminate barriers.