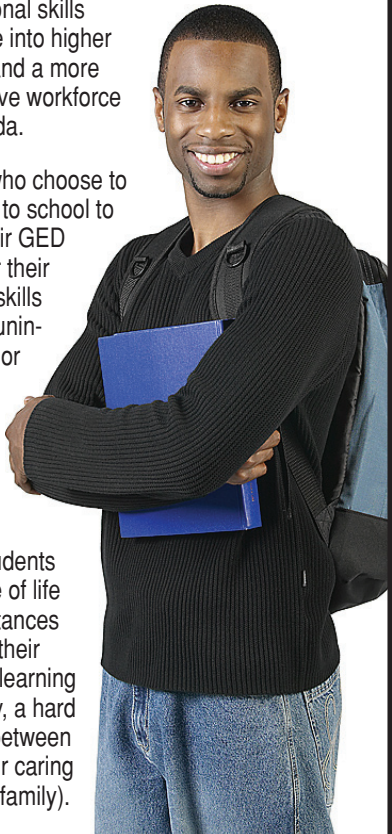


WHY

Adult Education Students Enroll

1. Most adult education students are adults who want to improve their employability. Floridians' quality of life is impacted by their employment. Adult education provides the foundation to transition to higher educational levels and higher wages.
2. Adult education students also include adults who are trying to better their English literacy skills to improve employability.
3. Adult education programs provide dropout prevention services to currently enrolled high school students who are behind in credits (co-enrolled students). (OPPAGA Report No 11-04).
4. Adult education programs also provide services to teenagers who recently dropped out of school. (drop-out prevention)
5. Adult education ensures that adults who are willing workers have the opportunity to obtain the skills required to meet the demands of employers.
6. Adult education is the stepping stone to career, technical, vocational programs and postsecondary education. Higher educational skills translate into higher wages and a more productive workforce for Florida.
7. Adults who choose to go back to school to earn their GED or better their literacy skills are not unintelligent or unmotivated people. Many become adult students because of life circumstances beyond their control (learning disability, a hard choice between school or caring for their family).



Florida Fast Facts for Adult Education

Mission of Adult Education:

The mission of adult education in Florida is to provide adults with educational opportunities to acquire and improve their literacy skills necessary to be self-sufficient and to participate effectively as productive workers, family members and citizens.

19% of Floridians do not have a high school diploma or GED. (2010 US Census)

Number of students served (2008-2009) – 330,000 (OPPAGA)
Enrollment in adult education programs was larger than enrollment in the State University System and other postsecondary programs. (OPPAGA)

Nearly three-fourths of high school students who co-enrolled in adult education remained in school or graduated. (OPPAGA)

One-third of recent high school dropouts served by adult education returned to high school or obtained a high school credential. (OPPAGA)

(Higher Education Coordinating Council Draft Report on Workforce Ed)

- 74% of post tested learners make learning gains
- 63% completing ABE transition into postsecondary education or earn a diploma the following year
- 59% that document a learning gain continue their education

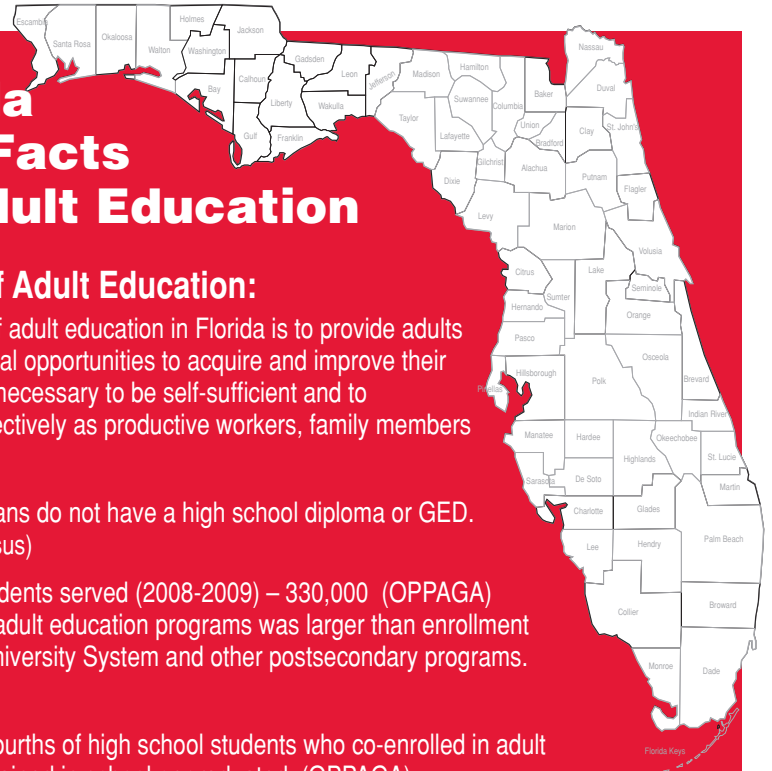
Level of Education Attained	Unemployment Rate	Median Earning (\$'s)
Some high school, no diploma	14.6%	\$23,608
High school graduate	9.7%	\$32,552
Associate's degree	6.8%	\$39,572
Bachelor's degree	5.2%	\$53,300
Master's degree	3.9%	\$65,364
Doctoral degree	2.5%	\$79,664

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Cost of 1 Florida family on welfare (cash assistance and food stamps only) for 1 year - \$12,384
- Cost to provide adult education classes to 1 Floridian for 1 year - \$1,200. (avg.)
- Cost of 1 incarcerated Floridian for one year - \$19,000 - \$25,000
- Cost of providing adult education classes or job training to 1 incarcerated Floridian - \$372.30 per year

In Florida, 22,691 adult students earned their GED or Adult High School diploma in 2009-2010.

68,845 adult students are enrolled in GED or Adult High School working toward their GED or High School diploma.



The following information is taken from “[The Return on Investment from Adult Education and Training](#),” written by Dr. Lennox McLendon, Executive Director, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE), Debra Jones, California Director of Adult Education and Mitch Rosin, Editorial Director, McGraw-Hill School Education Group. To view the entire document, please visit www.NCSDAE.org or www.mcgraw-hillresearchfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/the-return-on-investment-from-adult-education-and-training.pdf.



Return on Investment for Adult Education

ADULT EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT THAT CAN HELP CAPTURE SOME IF NOT ALL OF THESE POTENTIAL INDIVIDUAL GAINS BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY.

Economic Benefits to the Individual

- Higher Salaries and Benefits
- Enhanced Employment Opportunities and Stability
- Higher Savings Levels
- Improved Working Conditions

Individuals Gain Important Private Social Benefits

- Improved Health and Life Expectancy
- An Improved Quality of Life for Children and Dependents
- More Informed Consumer
- Better Decision Maker
- Higher Personal Status
- More Time for Hobbies and Leisure Activities



ADULT EDUCATION IS ALSO AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION.

Benefits to the Nation

- Increased Tax Revenues
- Greater Business Productivity
- Increased Consumption
- Decreased Reliance on Government Financial Support
- Increased Workforce Flexibility
- Increased Ability to Compete for Jobs Globally

- Their additional spending has potential to increase jobs.
- Research shows that better educated parents raise better-educated, more successful children, who are less likely to end up in poverty or prison.
- Benefits enjoyed by the better educated: Enhanced job security.
- It is also understood that the less well-educated suffer economically and transfer some of the burden of their low-income status to society.
- High school dropouts were more than twice as likely to be living in poverty as high school graduates. (U.S. Census)
- Seventy-four percent of dropouts spend one or more years in poverty between the ages of 25-75.
- Two in five youths between the ages of 16 and 24 who drop out of school receive public assistance.

ADULT EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT TO REDUCE WELFARE AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COSTS.

Social Benefits Enjoyed by the Public

- Reduced Crime Rates
- Increased Charitable Giving and Community Service
- Increased Quality of Civic Life
- Social Cohesion/Appreciation of Diversity
- Improved Ability to Adapt to and Use Technology

Second Chance, Willing Workers

The U.S. will not be able to replace current workers from the pool of young people now entering or in school currently. As baby boomers retire, the percentage of working-age adults with a high school education will actually decline by 2020.

We have no choice but to educate the adult workers we have now, many of whom are undereducated and underemployed but remain motivated and desirous of improving their station in life.

The need for adult education has never been stronger than it is right now, and a greater sustained effort to support adult education would be one of the most cost-effective investments the U.S. could make toward speeding full recovery from the Recession.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that 33% of all job openings and nearly 50% of all new jobs created between 2008-2018 will require a postsecondary degree or credential.

As the need for better-educated, skilled workers continues to rise, the available pool of such workers is decreasing.

Nearly half of the workforce today (approximately 52 million adults) has only a high school education or less.

25 million workers aged 18-64 lack even a high school diploma or GED.

Predictions are that the U.S. will need three million more associate degrees or higher than current trends in graduation rates predict – a 10.6 percent increase in the number of students graduating each year through 2018 just to meet the projected demand for educated workers.

The facts are that the return on investment in adult education goes beyond money to promote:

- More capable parents raising children who are better able to learn and succeed;
- Healthier citizens who are better able to work regularly and who place a lower burden on the nation's healthcare resource;
- Lower correctional costs.

If adult education can help recapture those dropouts, much of their potential can be realized. An investment in adult education not only returns money to society, it enables individual dropouts to become productive citizens, supportive parents and contributing community members.

Adult education is a worthy investment.



Advocacy Action from ACE

Historically, adult education staff have believed that they don't have the time to do advocacy work. Many programs lack the staff they need to just get their jobs done precisely due to cuts and lack of adequate funding. Added to that is some don't think advocacy really works.

Are you one of those adult educators?

Below are 3 ways you can get involved:

1. Second Chance Initiative

See page 5 of the ACE Report for a more detailed explanation of the marketing campaign.

Our goal is to have over 1,000 people visit the Second Chance Initiative Facebook page, "like it" and help us gather more friends.

www.facebook.com/pages/Second-Chance-Initiative/296228177072148

2. Student Letter/Post Card Campaign

Focus on students because students really want to help. They have the most compelling stories.

ACE of Florida will launch letter/post card writing campaign for adult learners to write to their legislators.

"In examining the most successful state level advocacy campaigns over the past five years we have found that 80% of the contacts come from students. In effect that means if we are not willing to engage students in the process we are cutting off 80% of our potential to be successful."

Art Ellison

ACE will:

- Provide printed post cards with space on one side for students to write their legislators;
- Provide guidelines for student input;
- Distribute the stamped post cards to adult education deans, directors and by teacher request;
- Provide list of addresses of legislators.

Students will:

- Write about their particular program they attend;
- Why they were in the program;
- What they plan on doing after they leave;
- Thank the legislator(s) for supporting adult education and workforce education.

3. Personal Contact with Legislators

The goal is to have personal contact with each legislator that is serving on the Senate and House Higher Education Committees, as well as the other K-12 Education Committees. Adult educators will invite these legislators to speak at adult education functions, such as graduations. Take a successful adult education student to visit legislators in their home district office to give their story about how adult education helped them.