

## **Adult Education your partner in Workforce Development**

Adult basic education programs teach 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, Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education, Division of Adult Education.

### **The essentials of adult basic education services in Pennsylvania. Improving skills of over 20,000 Pennsylvanians each year.**

- The U.S. was ranked 21st out of 23 countries in adult math skills. The U.S. is also below the international average in literacy and technology skills.
- Over 1.1 million PA adults don't have a high school diploma. This prevents them from obtaining many entry-level jobs.
- 185,000 PA adults do not speak English well or at all. Pennsylvania adults in urban and rural areas want to learn English for their jobs, families, and everyday lives.

### **Workforce preparation as part of career pathways education leads to a stronger workforce.**

- Digital literacy skills
- Working with others
- Critical thinking skills
- Workplace skills
- Reading, writing and math skills
- Using resources & information
- Workplace, postsecondary, and training prep
- High School Equivalency test prep
- ESL and EL/Civics
- Family Literacy
- Integrated education and training

### **Over 22,000 outcomes were met by our students in PY 13-14.**

- Improving reading, writing and math skills
- Enroll in college or training
- Obtain a new or better job
- Obtain a secondary school credential

### **59 service providers available across the state**

- Colleges & Universities
- Community Based Organizations
- Intermediate Units
- School Districts
- Community colleges

- Literacy Councils
- Unions
- Career & Technology Centers

#### **Who do we serve?**

- are at least 16 years of age;
- are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under Pennsylvania law;
- are 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.

#### **Successful local partnerships you can build**

- Building career pathways that meet employers' needs - Seneca Highlands IU 9 has a long history of partnering with the local Workforce Development Board, PA CareerLink® site, and employers. Partners work together to determine industry-specific career pathways from entry-level employment to advanced positions. Employers provide information to build the paths so the career planning and employment preparation meet employers' needs.
- Supporting postsecondary and training program success - Community Learning Center (CLC) partners with Community College of Philadelphia to prepare adult students for training programs. CLC incorporates comprehensive career exploration and awareness into programming so adults can make informed career choices. Students are given additional support and instruction throughout the application process and training program.
- Coordinating resources and sharing information - Luzerne County Community College's Career Pathways team meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss current program offerings and workforce development needs. Ten different workforce development and community agencies 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 - Community Action Southwest's comprehensive case management approach helps students to 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. Local employers have provided additional funding to support services to eliminate barriers.

*To learn more about partnering with adult basic education providers, contact Division Chief Amanda Harrison at [RA-ABLE@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ABLE@pa.gov) or visit our resource site at: [www.paadultedresources.org](http://www.paadultedresources.org)*