



America is at a crossroads.
We need every person in our nation ready to contribute to America's competitiveness.

Our 55,000+ adult education leaders stand united in a national campaign to move learning opportunities forward for all Americans to achieve economic mobility. If we educate, then we elevate—our students, workers, businesses and our economic growth.

Investing in Adult Education is good for the economy.

It's an investment in America's economic engine - - we reach adults who struggle with literacy, numeracy, and problem solving getting them into the workforce pipeline so they can contribute to a company's bottom line.

Everyone needs a return on their investment. Whether it's the U.S. companies investing in their workforce, the workers investing their time and energy learning in-demand skills, or funders that want to ensure their investments are moving the economy forward.

Adult Education is a smart investment. We need all available workers ready to help our country compete.

How Adult Education is Uniquely Situated to Address the Needs of U.S. Employers

By 2020, the American Action Forum projects that the United States will be short an estimated 7.5 million private sector workers across all skill levels. Adult Education brings businesses options by preparing existing workers with families and competing life responsibilities with the skills that companies need through flexible classrooms and curriculum.

How Adult Education Addresses the Skills Gap

In a recent survey, 92% of business leaders thought that U.S. workers were not as skilled as they needed to be. And they are probably right. By 2018, 63% of all U.S. jobs will require education beyond high school. Yet, nearly half of the U.S. workforce—about 88 million of 188 million adults aged 18 to 64—has only a high school education or less, and/or low English proficiency. Educating motivated students with the skills that companies need provides qualified candidates for hard to fill positions.

Learn more about how we're making investments that educate and elevate America with Adult Education.

www.EducateandElevate.org



7.5 million

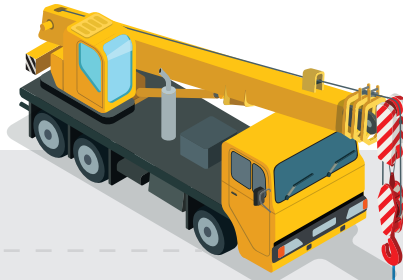
By 2020, the American Action Forum projects that the United States will be short an estimated 7.5 million private sector workers across all skill levels.



29%



Adult Education makes communities safer too. Inmate participation in adult education reduced recidivism by 29%.



\$30,000

In contrast, adults with a high school degree were more likely to work full time and average 20% higher earnings (\$30,000) well above the poverty line for a family of 4.



63%

By 2018, 63% of all U.S. jobs will require education beyond high school.



92%

In a recent survey, 92% of business leaders thought that U.S. workers were not as skilled as they needed to be. Adult Education builds the skills of workers.



ADULT EDUCATION

An Investment in America's Future

www.EducateandElevate.org

A collaboration of the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) and the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE)

we are

the adult education system of nearly 55,000 leaders, administrators, and educators preparing adults to succeed in a global culture and economy by delivering a world-class education.

we champion

increased access and investment in adult education, leading to higher quality instruction and greater student outcomes. We employ innovative and effective strategies to reach more adults who struggle with literacy, numeracy, and problem solving.

we lead

a results-driven adult education system that provides:

- Academic instruction aligned to college- and career-readiness standards
- Preparation and coaching for next steps (i.e., college and career) for:
 - *Individuals without a high school diploma*
 - *Individuals with a high school diploma with emergent needs*
 - *English language learners (ELL) (literacy and civics)*
 - *Individuals participating in integrated education and training*
 - *Individuals in corrections facilities*

we equip

adult educators with:

- High-quality professional development
- Innovative instructional strategies
- Research-based models
- Leadership development

the challenge ...

Low-skilled adults are:

2X more likely to be unemployed

3X as likely to be in poverty

4X as likely to be in poor health

8X as likely to be incarcerated

36
million

adults in the U.S. have limited English or reading skills and more than 60 million can't perform simple math.

65%

of all jobs in 2020 will require some level of postsecondary education.

Low education and skill levels of adults are a fundamental barrier to every major challenge facing the United States, including early childhood education, education reform, economic development, and improving the health and well-being of the nation's families and communities.

the results ...

1.5M

students are enrolled in adult education programs

20%
decrease!

in # of adults without high school diploma or equivalent – from 2000 to 2015

A person with a high school diploma or equivalent earns an average of \$9,620 more per year than a non-graduate.

An Investment in America's future



How Adult Education Increases Business Productivity

Our nation's competitiveness declines when talent shortages negatively impact businesses' productivity and innovation. Companies miss out on growth opportunities, product development suffers, and profits stagnate without a skilled national workforce. America needs an "all hands on deck" approach to bring every available worker to the labor pool.

How Better Educated Populations Strengthen Communities

Educating adults creates stronger communities. Higher education levels are correlated with lower rates of chronic diseases like diabetes and asthma, and a mother's education level is the highest determinate of a child's academic success. Adult Education makes communities safer too. Inmate participation in adult education reduced recidivism by 29%.

How Adult Education Decreases Reliance On Government Support

The employment rate for young workers, as late as 2015, without a high school degree or equivalent stands in stark contrast to the national employment rate, with slightly less than half in full time employment. In contrast, adults with a high school degree were more likely to work full time and average 20% higher earnings (\$30,000) well above the poverty line for a family of 4.



Learn more about how we're making investments that educate and elevate America with Adult Education.

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COABE
COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION



National Council of State
Directors of Adult Education



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