



## Adult Education’s Role in the Workforce Development System

“We envision a Virginia where every business has access to a qualified, job-ready workforce and every Virginian has the skills needed to connect with meaningful employment and advance in a career.” *Vision statement from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia.*

### Student and Public Information:

#### Did you know?

Adult education providers teach academic and employability skills that lead to higher wages, transition learners to further education and training, increase learners’ English language proficiency, and help parents become more involved in their children’s education.

Workers with a high school diploma or GED® credential can earn on average \$9,000 more per year than those without, and workers with an occupational credential can earn even more.

Training is offered in high-demand, well-paying occupations:

Industries	<a href="#">Average Hourly Wage Range in Virginia</a>	<a href="#">Projected Number of Positions in Virginia by 2024</a>
Accommodations and Food Service	\$11.35	31,290
Construction	\$21.45	22,760
Education	\$27.79	42,378
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$15.17	97,087
Information Technology	\$48.47	70,701
Retail Trade	\$19.07	29,162

### Our participants are:

- Workers, more than 50 percent of our students report being employed when they enroll
- Lifelong learners, enrolling in postsecondary education and training during and after leaving the program
- Work-ready, equipped with valuable workplace preparation skills such as critical thinking, digital literacy, self-management, and employability skills
- The workforce of today, gaining additional skills and valued credentials to put to use immediately

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## **Employer Information:**

Educational preparation for improved literacy, numeracy, and English language proficiency is a key to a better quality of life. According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, over 700,000 Virginia adults do not have a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential, and many more lack literacy in key areas such as math or workforce preparation skills.

How can adult education support Virginia businesses?

Adult education providers can design an integrated education and training program to meet local occupational skill needs; offer classes at worksites to improve employees' academic skills, workforce preparation, and English language proficiency; and connect local businesses with adults who are work-ready, lifelong learners. These services are provided through federal, state, and local funds.

## **Top industries where participants are employed after leaving the program:**

- Accommodations and Food Services (22%)
- Retail Trade (16%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (14%)
- Administrative and Support Services (13%)
- Manufacturing (10%)
- Other (25%)

## **Our providers serve local employers' talent needs by:**

- Providing job information and access to thousands of job seekers
- Designing integrated education and training programs with local employers to fill current openings
- Serving on all local workforce development boards, on regional Business Services Teams, and in all comprehensive Virginia Career Works Centers

[Adult Education Administrators Directory](#)

## **Partner Information:**

Between July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2018, Virginia adult education reported:

- 57,525 participants; nearly a quarter were ages 16-24 and over half were ages 25-44
- 14,132 high school equivalency credentials (e.g. GED®) earned
- 8,662 participants who made gains in academic and career readiness skills
- 14,271 participants who made gains in English language proficiency
- 237 industry-recognized credentials earned

**Our instructors are:**

- Experienced, dedicated and trained – engaging in over 7,000 hours of professional development delivered through the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center in a single program year

**Our partners include:**

- Regional workforce development boards and operators of the Virginia Career Works Centers
- State partners such as the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), and the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Community non-profit service organizations such as Goodwill Industries, the United Way, and local literacy volunteer chapters
- Local employers

**Adult Education's Role in the Virginia WIOA Combined State Plan:**

Goal 1: Increase business engagement and deliver value to our business customers.

Our Role: Adult education providers are part of the workforce development system's Business Service Teams, reaching out to employers in the community. All adult education classes incorporate workforce preparation activities that help learners acquire the competencies employers value, such as critical thinking, digital literacy, self-management, and employability skills to prepare adults for successful employment.

Goal 2: Achieve measurable skills development in our job-seeking customers in the form of workforce credentials that matter to business.

Our Role: Adult education participants achieve skill gains in academic and career readiness skills and English language proficiency, and earn high school equivalency, workplace, and industry-recognized credentials.

Goal 3: Fill jobs in demand occupations that show promise for long-term growth in industries that are strategic to Virginia's economy and strengthen Virginia's regions.

Our Role: Integrated education and training cohorts are offered around the Commonwealth, providing adults with opportunities to learn academic and employability skills as they simultaneously earn credentials for employment in high-demand occupations.

Goal 4: Help individuals, including individuals with barriers, gain access to jobs that pay family-sustaining wages and provide opportunities for career progression.

Our Role: Adult education providers coordinate services with workforce development partners and community service agencies to assist individuals who face barriers to employment to complete education and training and enter employment.

Goal 5: Ensure that workforce system public investments generate a quality return to Virginia and the customers we serve.

Our Role: Customized integrated education and training offered through the PluggedInVA program costs an average of \$3,000 per student. Graduates are equipped with high school equivalency, digital literacy, and occupational credentials for an in-demand job. Through career coaching and workforce preparation activities, graduates are ready to advance on a career pathway.

**For more information:**

Contact the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education by telephone at: 804-786-3347 or by email at [OAEL@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:OAEL@doe.virginia.gov)

