

The WIOA Combined State Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia set five ambitious goals to be achieved by the partners.

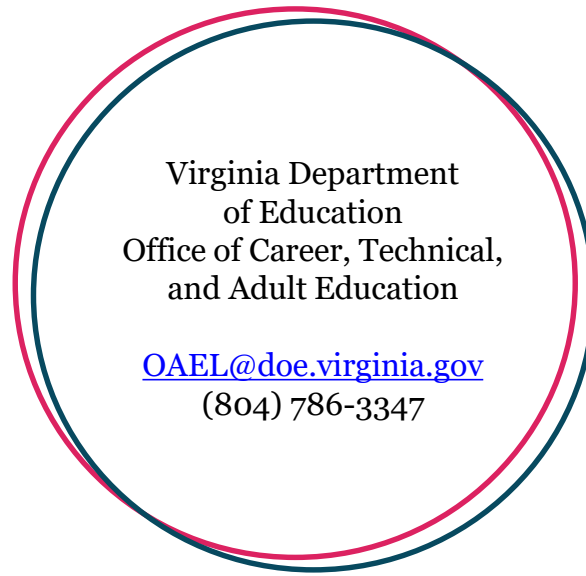
Goal 1: Help individuals gain access to jobs that pay family-sustaining wages and provide opportunities for career progression by providing equitable and universal service delivery

Goal 2: Increase business engagement and deliver value to our business customers by filling jobs in high-demand occupations that are strategic to Virginia's economy and strengthen Virginia's regions

Goal 3: Develop a qualified and desirable workforce with the skills, competencies, and credentials that meets the current and anticipated business needs of Virginia

Goal 4: Strengthen outreach and recruitment efforts to make available services more well-known and stimulate career awareness

Goal 5: Reduce workforce system barriers through collaborative integration and innovative solutions



Adult Education's Role in the Workforce Development System



“During the life of this plan, we will improve economic opportunity for all Virginians by serving those who are not yet earning a sustainable wage and, as important, by focusing the resources and mechanisms of our workforce system to recruit people into the workforce and connecting them to businesses in high demand industries.”

Vision statement from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia



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	Average Hourly Wage in Virginia*	Projected Number of Positions in Virginia by 2024**
Accommodations and Food Service	\$12.48	31,290
Construction	\$23.28	22,760
Education	\$30.33	42,378
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$14.58	97,087
Information Technology	\$51.50	70,701
Retail Trade	\$22.00	29,162

Our participants are:

- **Workers**, with more than 50 percent of our students reporting being employed
- **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

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
 **Virginia Jobs Outlook 2024 (VEC)



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 Businesses and Workforce Development?

Adult education providers can design customized solutions to meet local business needs:

- integrated education and training or pre-apprenticeship programs;
- 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.

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

See the [Adult Education Administrators Directory](#)

Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2021, Virginia adult education reported:

- **44,890 participants**; most in their prime working years
- **1,716** high school equivalency credentials (e.g. GED® and adult high school diploma) earned
- **829** participants who transitioned to postsecondary education
- **4,175** participants who made gains in academic and career readiness skills
- **7,494** participants who made gains in English language proficiency
- **3,386** participants who enrolled in an integrated education and training program (IET)
- **more than 50** percent of participants report being employed while they are enrolled

Our instructors are:

- **Experienced, dedicated, and trained.** In 2020-2021, 3,500 participants engaged in over 100 professional development events delivered through the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center.

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 and job recruiters