



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LEARNERS**

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



A PROUD PARTNER OF
VIRGINIA
CAREER WORKS

How Can Adult Education Support Businesses and Workforce Development?

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 equivalent, and many more lack literacy in critical areas such as math, digital, or workforce preparation skills. Adult education providers teach academic and employability skills that lead to higher wages, transition learners to further education and training, increase adults' English language proficiency, and help parents become more involved in their children's education.

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®) earned
- **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

Adult education providers can design custom solutions to meet local business needs and increase employees' potential:

- Integrated education and training and pre-apprenticeship programs to prepare current and future employees
- Workplace literacy programming to increase employee productivity in areas such as digital literacy, English proficiency, and targeted skills
- Support for employees to complete their secondary credential such as the GED® credential to prepare them for work-based advancement or Registered Apprenticeships
- Access to a diverse talent and recruitment pool of work-ready learners

[Find an Adult Education provider in your area!](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/adulted/regional_programs/index.shtml)

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Our participants are

- **Workers**, with more than 50 percent of our students reporting being employed
- **Lifelong learners**, enrolling in further 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 credentials to put to use immediately

Our instructors are

- **Experienced, dedicated, and well-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



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Office of Career, Technical,
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