



**COLORADO**

Department of Education

# The ABC's of Adult Basic Education

Think Big Conference

August 30, 2016



# The Colorado Talent Pipeline

What happens to those Coloradans who do not obtain adequate preparation and training to pursue a passion, technical specialization or advance through a career path?

*Studies have shown that those with lower levels of education typically have higher unemployment rates, less stable and lucrative job prospects, less opportunities for mobility, lower levels of health and lower earning potential. All of these potential roadblocks are not just burdens on the individual—when we leave a Coloradan behind, we are setting up ourselves as a society to fiscally bear increased costs in social services, while reducing the opportunity for our state to receive more tax monies from those lost earnings and productivity.*

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/2014%20Talent%20Pipeline%20Report.pdf>



# The Colorado Talent Pipeline

- The youth unemployment rate (ages 16 to 19) still remains higher than what it was immediately prior to the recession. (Current Population Survey).
- Research on opportunity youth show significant social and financial burdens through lost output/wages and lost taxes, above average levels of criminal involvement and high use of social services. Minorities and males disproportionately represent opportunity youth.



<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/2014%20Talent%20Pipeline%20Report.pdf>

# What is Adult Education?

Adult education is the delivery of education services to adults 16 years of age or older who are no longer in school and have literacy and/or numeracy skills that function below the level of secondary school.

Services can include foundational skills such as reading, language, applied mathematics, math computation, and/or English language instruction.

# Who Provides It?

Providers of adult education services can include:

- Public schools
- Community-based organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Community colleges
- Public libraries
- Public housing authorities
- Volunteer literacy organizations
- Partnerships between employers and any organizations listed above



# Who is Being Served?

## ***Federal Funding***

The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 appropriates approximately \$577,667,000 to Adult Education activities.

[AEFLA Program Facts](#)

## ***State Funding***

The Adult Education and Literacy Act of 2014 appropriates approximately \$875,000 annually to Adult Workforce Partnerships Grants.

[AELA Program Facts](#)

# Federal Legislation: WIOA

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Signed into Law on July 22, 2014
- WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

# State Legislation: Adult Education and Literacy Act

- The [Adult Education and Literacy Act of 2014](#) was signed on June 5, 2014.
- Successfully refocuses the mission of adult education and literacy programs by requiring the active collaboration and coordination of a variety of state agencies and organizations that are involved in adult education and literacy, postsecondary education, training and credential attainment, workforce development, economic development, and human services
- Created the Adult Workforce Partnership Program to be administered by the Colorado Department of Education.
- Requires convening an Adult Workforce Partnership Advisory Board to guide the work at a state level.

# Adult Workforce Development Partnership

- Local Education Providers must be member of an [Adult Workforce Development Partnership](#) to be eligible for this grant.
- An Adult Workforce Development Partnership is a collaboration that assists adults in attaining basic literacy and numeracy skills leading to additional skill acquisition, postsecondary credentials, and employment.
- At a minimum, a Workforce Development Partnership must include:
  - A Local Education Provider;
  - At least one Postsecondary Education or Training Provider; and
  - At least one Adult Workforce Development Provider.

# Local Program Focus

***Melissa Burkhardt-Shields, Director***

*Adult And Family Education*

*Colorado Springs School District 11*



# Adult and Family Education School District 11

- **Number of Students who attended 12+ hours in the 2015-2016 School Year**
- **English Language Acquisition**
  - 489
- **Adult Basic Education**
  - 426
- **Adult Secondary Education**
  - 72
- **Total 987**



# Community Partnerships

- **Pikes Peak Workforce Center**

- Co-Located
  - High School Equivalency Prep
    - 4 mornings a week

- **Pikes Peak Community College**

- Co-Located
  - High School Equivalency Prep
    - 4 evenings a week

- **Criminal Justice Center**

- Co-Located
  - High School Equivalency Prep
    - 4 days a week morning and afternoon

- **Agency Referrals**

- Department of Human Services
- Lutheran Refugee Services
- Community Probation and Parole
- Homeless Shelters
- Partners in Housing
- Ecumenical Social Ministries

- **School Districts**

- Drop-Out Prevention Specialists
- High School Counselors
- Alternative School Principals



# Choices for High School Equivalency Exams

- GED
- HiSET
- TASC



**Thank you!**  
**Have a great evening.**

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