

Rhode Island Department of Education

Adult Education at a Glance

➤ **PROGRAMS – 34 LOCAL AGENCIES ACROSS THE STATE**

- The majority of agencies are community-based organizations
- Other agencies include colleges, school districts, libraries, and correctional facilities

➤ **ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES**

- Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes in reading, writing, and mathematics for low-proficiency level adults functioning between 1st and 8th grade levels
- Adult Secondary Education (ASE) classes in reading, writing, and mathematics for adults functioning between 9th and 12th grade levels
- English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for English language learners, from low-level to advanced-level speakers of English

➤ **SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS**

- GED preparation classes leading to a High School Equivalency Diploma
- National External Diploma Program assessments leading to a High School Diploma
- “Transition To College and Careers” program through the Community College of RI
- Contextualized Instruction in high-demand occupations (e.g., health care and hospitality)

➤ **FUNDING FOR ADULT EDUCATION**

- Federal: U.S. Dept. of Education = \$2.3 million; RI Dept. Human Services = \$1 million
- State: RI General Revenue = \$2.5 million; Governor’s Workforce Board = \$3.5 million

➤ **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14:**

- Enrolled adult learners = **5,587** – an average of **\$1,665 per student**
- Instructional hours = **647,000+** – an average of **116 hours per student**
- Educational gains = **2,857** – **51% of all students achieved gains**
 - Gain is defined as progress from one educational functioning level to the next higher level (equal to two or three grade level equivalents, depending on the level)
- GED credentials awarded during 2013 = **2,349 diplomas** (includes all test takers in RI)
 - 84% pass rate – National pass rate was 74%
- Unemployed students who entered employment after exiting = **684 in new jobs**
- Students who entered postsecondary education after exiting = **429 in higher education**

➤ **NEED FOR ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES IN RHODE ISLAND**

Based on the 2012 US Census Bureau, American Community Survey Estimates:

- **More than 75,000** working-age adults (18-64 years old) in RI lack a high school credential
- **More than 35,000** working-age adults (18-64 years old) in RI do not speak English well
 - **Unemployment rate** for adults without a high school credential is more than double the rate for adults with an associate’s degree – **16.1% vs. 7.6%**
 - **Earnings** for adults without a high school credential are considerably lower than earnings for adults with an associate’s degree -- **\$22,814 vs. \$36,485**