Fact Sheet
Utah Adult Education

Utah Adult Education

A highly successful system of basic skills for adults in family, community, and work.

What Is Adult Education?

Our mission is to empower individuals to become self-sufficient, with skills necessary for future employment and personal successes.

Our vision is to assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency while completing a secondary education.

For 45 years Adult Education/Utah State Office of Education has had a positive impact on the economic development of Utah.

Adult Education in Utah consists of programs and services to assist individuals 16 years of age and older who have discontinued public education enrollment or whose high school class has graduated and who do not have a high school diploma. Adults needing English language acquisition and those with or without a high school diploma needing basic skills development are also eligible.

Adult Education promotes programs in Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult High School Completion (AHSC), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and General Educational Development (GED®). Programs may emphasize English language acquisition and competency, basic skills in reading, writing, math and problem solving, or workplace literacy in addition to academic/credit courses leading to high school completion.

Adult Education programs are located in 40 school districts and several community and/or faith based organizations. Individual businesses have chosen to provide adult education services as part of their employee advancement process.

During 2013-2014, 20,390 enrollees were served in Utah Adult Education programs.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

(Funded through federal and/or state grants)

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

ABE is a program that provides instruction for adults whose ability to compute, speak, read, or write the English language only at or below the ninth grade level substantially impairs their ability to find or retain employment commensurate with their real ability. Instruction is designed to help adults by:

- Increasing their independence.
- Increasing opportunities for more productive and profitable employment.
- Making them better able to meet adult responsibilities.

Statewide enrollment for 2013-2014 was 12,309.

Adult High School Completion (AHSC)

AHSC is a program for those adults who have some literacy skills and can function in everyday life, but do not have a secondary school diploma or GED®. AHSC provides instruction in the Utah Core Curriculum, which leads to a high school diploma.

Statewide enrollment for 2013-2014 was 2,224.

English Language Civics (ELC) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

ELC/ESOL is a program for those limited English proficient students who have a focus on improving English communication skills such as speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Statewide enrollment for 2013-2014 was 5,857.

General Educational Development (GED®)

GED® measures the major and lasting outcomes and concepts associated with a traditional four-year high school education. Testing sites are located statewide.

Corrections Education

Corrections Education provides educational opportunities to adults located in state prisons and jails. Programs include ABE, AHSC, and GED®. Additional services include employment counseling and career exploration. Transition services to other adult education programs are available before and after release.

Statewide enrollment for 2013-2014 was 4,755.

Utah Adult Education Programs are Necessary and Produce Results

NEED FOR ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES

- 211,000 adults in Utah do not have a high school diploma or GED® (2000 census).
- 30% of the Department of Workforce Services' (among 10,172 individuals in case management with an academic assessment who disclosed education levels less than a high school diploma or GED®.)
- 14,931 Utahns (among the current population (38,597) receiving unemployment insurance benefits who indicate they do not have a high school diploma or GED®.
- 8% of all Utah birth mothers do not have a high school diploma or GED®.
- Approximately 265,800 Utahns are on public assistance.
- Approximately 12,000 Utahns are housed in correctional facilities.
- Approximately 38,597 Utahns are receiving unemployment compensation.

BARRIERS WITHOUT ADULT EDUCATION

- Low literacy rate
- Not self-sufficient
- Unable to apply for entrance into the military
- Unable to apply for post-secondary training
- Unemployment or minimum-wage jobs

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Workers who lack a high school diploma earn a median weekly income of $451 compared to $638 with a high school diploma and compared to $1,053 for those with a bachelor's degree.
  (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics-Education Pays March 2012)
- Graduating from high school increases the likelihood of avoiding welfare by 75%.
- Literate adults are crucial to the development of school-ready and literate children.
- Each adult high school diploma and GED® generates nearly $800 in state income taxes annually.

ENROLLMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2013-2014 School Year

- Adult students enrolled = 20,390
- Student contact hours = 22,260,117
- High school credits earned = 22,529
- GED® certificates earned = 841
- Adult education secondary diplomas awarded = 2,458
- Obtained employment = 234
- Enrolled in post-secondary training = 40

ADULT DEMOGRAPHICS

21,005 enrolled

Age 16-18	=	3,3775	19%
Age 19-24	=	4,433	21%
Age 25-44	=	8,896	44%
Age 45-59	=	2,663	13%
60 & over	=	623	3%

Male = 10,924 52%

Female = 9,466 48%

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Marty Kelly, *Coordinator*
Alternative, Adult, and GED® Education Services
801.538.7824
marty.kelly@schools.utah.gov
www.schools.utah.gov/adulted

ETHNICITY OF STUDENTS

- 60% are American Indian, Asian, Black or African-American, Hispanic or Latino, or Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.
- 85 countries are represented.
- Over 100 languages are spoken.

EXPERTISE AND AUTHORITY – Utah Public School Districts

- Utah school districts have the legal mandate to award credit and implement state secondary education standards leading to high school diplomas.
- Utah's public school districts are guided by a curriculum that also applies to adults in the high school completion program.
- All Utah public schools are accredited and staffed by certified personnel.

Collaboration with community and state partners provides programmatic support for enhanced Adult Education Services.

PARTNERS

- Department of Community and Economic Development
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Workforce Services
- Utah businesses and faith-based organizations
- Utah community-based organizations
- Utah State Office of Education
- Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
- Utah System of Higher Education
- Utah Family Center
- Other community outreach programs

Adult practitioners motivate and empower the student and impact the leaders of tomorrow.

RESOURCES

- **www.utahFutures.org**
  Investigate careers, explore education and training, find a job, and get information about obtaining training.
- **www.schools.utah.gov/adulted**
  Learn more about how Adult Education can be of assistance in reaching education and career goals.
- **www.utahged.org**
  Learn more about how to obtain a GED®.

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Utah State Office of Education
250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200