



# California Department of Education Adult Education Office

State-Funded Adult Education 2007-08

## California Adult School Program Impact

The California Adult Education Program serves state and national interests by providing lifelong educational opportunities and support services to more than 1.2 million adults. These opportunities and services address the unique needs of individuals and communities by providing adults with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve their economic condition and become positive contributors to the economy and to their families and communities.

The ten authorized program areas (Ed Code 41976) include Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL) including ESL-Citizenship (ESL-Cit), High School Diploma (H.S. Diploma) or Adult Secondary Education including General Education Development certification programs (ASE/GED), Citizenship, Career Technical Education (CTE), Adults with Disabilities (AWD), Health and Safety, Parent Education (Parent Ed.), Home Economics (Home Econ.), and Older Adults. School districts, adult schools, and county offices of education serve adult education learners in these ten program areas to provide diverse educational opportunities designed to meet adult learner needs.

California adult education programs not only focus on the specific academic skills needed for employment success, but also incorporate many job attainment and retention skills into the academic curriculum that lead to better and more sustained employment. The California Department of Education is committed to maintaining and developing the adult education system that provides Californians with necessary resources and tools to improve literacy and workforce skills.

California adult education programs support collaborative efforts with workforce centers, school districts, community colleges, welfare providers, correctional institutions, libraries, employers, community- and faith-based organizations, and the judicial system. Partnerships are developed to share resources and to refer clients. Such partnerships strengthen services and enhance students' academic experience. Through partnerships, programs can offer services such as transportation and child care to reduce the barriers for adults to attend classes. These partnerships make the most of limited resources and

increase the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of local adult education agencies.

The accomplishments of adult education students in California are showcased on the California Adult Education Students Succeed Web site at:

[www.AdultEdLearners.org](http://www.AdultEdLearners.org)



### Literacy Needs for California

- In California, one out of five adults out of school over the age of 18 does not have a high school diploma. According to the 2000 U.S. Census and the three-year (2005 to 2007) estimate of the American Community survey, the number of adults age 18 years or older residing in California without a high school diploma is approximately 5,326,458.
- More than 1.2 million California residents of labor force age are unemployed.
- Approximately 14 million (42.3 percent) of California residents speak a language other than English compared to 10.3 percent in the Midwest, 16.8 percent in the South, 21 percent in the Northeast and 31.5 percent in the West Region. One-third of the national non-English-speaking population lives in California.
- More than twenty-six percent of the total population in California is foreign-born. Many of these individuals need English literacy skills and basic education to secure employment, obtain citizenship, pursue postsecondary or higher education, and participate in their children's education.
- There is a growing number of incarcerated individuals, most of whom lack basic literacy skills.