

MAKING EDUCATION WORK FOR ALL



In Rhode Island, more than **75,000** working-age adults do not have a high school diploma and **35,000** have limited English language skills.

Why is it a problem? Because a competitive, thriving economy depends on every adult having the tools they need to participate, including basic language, math, and computer skills.

OUR CHALLENGE: To prepare more Rhode Islanders for the work ahead.

13.9% of working-age Rhode Islanders do not have a high school diploma or equivalency (compared to 10.4% in Massachusetts and 10.2% in Connecticut).

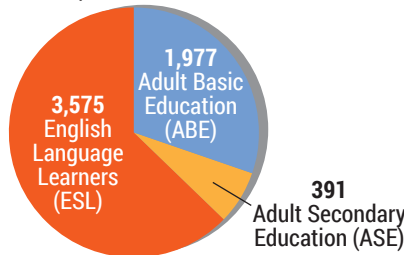
Our state has a higher percentage of residents who 'do not speak English very well' or 'not at all' than the New England region as a whole. An estimated 35,000 Rhode Islanders are unable to use their educational and professional backgrounds from other countries.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) funds **33 agencies** statewide that serve **6,000 adults** annually. The cost per adult averages \$1,400. A waitlist for these programs has been in place for five years; 1,300 are on the list today.

What does it mean?

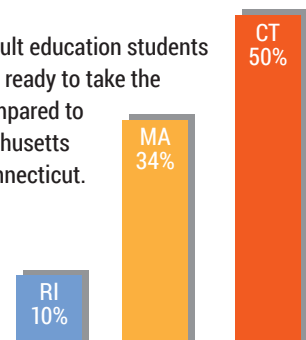
An underprepared Rhode Island cannot compete for new business and investments. Expanding access and availability of adult education and training programs is key to changing the future of our economy.

In 2015 - 2016, Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) adult education programs served **5,943 adults**:



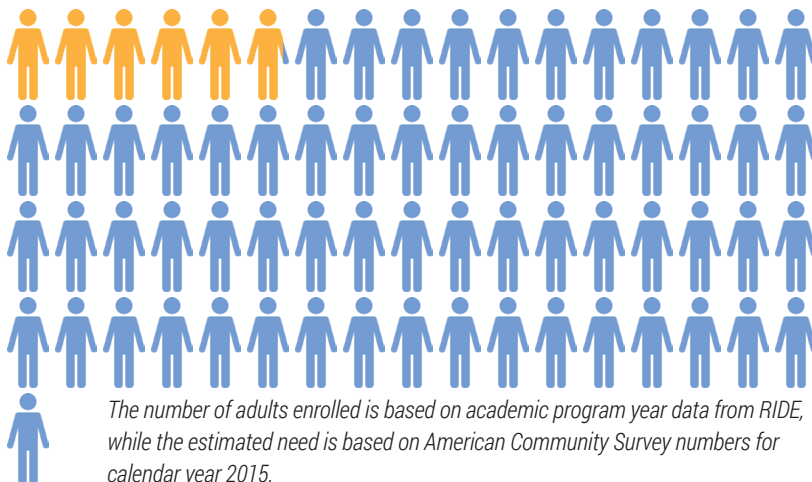
Most had skills below the high school level in literacy or math. In FY14, 93% of adults enrolled in RIDE programs had skills at the ABE level (skills considered to be at an elementary or middle school level); only 7% were assessed at the ASE level (skills considered to be at a high school level).

Only 10% of adult education students ages 16-24 are ready to take the GED exam, compared to 34% in Massachusetts and 50% in Connecticut.



Rhode Island Adult Education: Enrollment and Estimated Need

Adult Education Enrollment FY15-16: **5,943**
 Adult Education Estimated Need 2015: **77,000**



Adult education services include Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary Education (ASE), and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Estimated need is defined as the number of working-age adults (18 - 64 years old) who lack a high school credential, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Please note that the Estimated Need does not include Rhode Islanders whose educational attainment is at the high school level or above but who do not speak English well.



Together, we can help Rhode Islanders turn things around by expanding basic education offerings for adults statewide. Investing in adult education opens up paths out of poverty to financial security, and improves the economy for everyone.

OUR SOLUTION: Invest in adult education.

For our economy

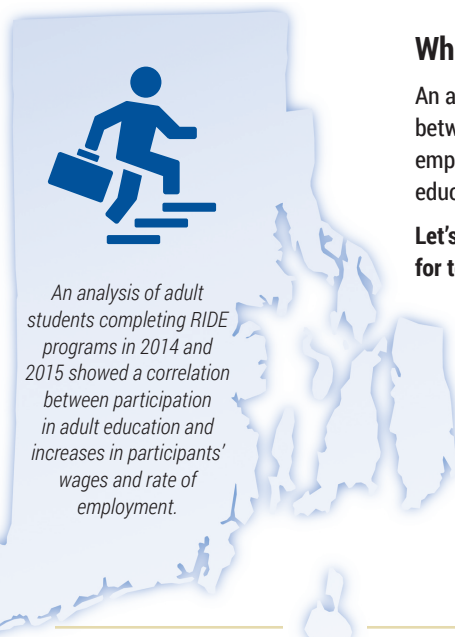
- Basic skills are essential to keeping a job and being able to move ahead.
- Adults who participate in education programs gain additional skills in working with computers, participating on a team, and even in leading projects and managing people.
- Adults with a high school degree are more likely to work full time and average 20% higher earnings (\$30,000) than those who did not complete high school, moving them above the poverty line for a family of four and reducing reliance on government support.

For our families

- Parents are children's first teachers. Participation in adult education helps parents be better partners in their children's education.
- When parents take classes and learn new things, they model the importance of education for their children.
- A mother's education level is the highest determinant of a child's academic success.
- Adult education has an intergenerational effect and supports Rhode Island's grade-level reading and college attainment goals.

For our communities

- Adults with basic skills are able to participate fully in their communities as informed citizens.
- Higher education levels are correlated with lower rates of chronic disease and asthma.
- Adult education makes communities safer, too. Inmate participation in adult education reduced recidivism by 29%.



An analysis of adult students completing RIDE programs in 2014 and 2015 showed a correlation between participation in adult education and increases in participants' wages and rate of employment.

What can we expect?

An analysis of adult students completing RIDE programs in 2014 and 2015 showed a correlation between participation in adult education and increases in participants' wages and rate of employment. Quarterly earnings increased nearly 40% within six months of completing the adult education program. Employment rates rose by 10% and remained steady over time.

Let's turn our future around by investing in adult education, and by helping Rhode Islanders prepare for tomorrow. A prosperous economy depends on everyone's ability to participate.

RI DataHUB 'Adult Education: Improving RI's Workforce' <http://ridatahub.org/datastories/adult-education-and-ris-workforce/4/>
http://www.educateandelevate.info/uploads/1/0/3/6/103638644/educate__elevate_fact_sheet.pdf
 Data Source: Osborn, S. (2016). RI Department of Education Adult Basic Education [PowerPoint slides].

For more information, visit LIVEUNITEDri.org.



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Because Rhode Island's future learns today.