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IS FOR
LEARNERS**

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



A PROUD PARTNER OF
VIRGINIA
CAREER WORKS

The Role of Adult Education in the Workforce Development System

“We envision a Virginia where every business has access to a qualified, job-ready workforce and every Virginian has the skills needed to connect with meaningful employment and advance in a career.” *Vision statement from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia*

Since the implementation of WIOA on July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2018, Virginia adult education reported:

- 57,525 participants**; nearly a quarter were ages 16-24 and over half were ages 25-44
- 14,132** high school equivalency credentials (e.g. GED®) earned
- 8,662** participants who made gains in academic and career readiness skills
- 14,271** participants who made gains in English language proficiency
- 237** industry-recognized credentials earned

Top industries where participants are employed after leaving the program:

- Accommodations and Food Services (22%)
- Retail Trade (16%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (14%)
- Administrative and Support Services (13%)
- Manufacturing (10%)
- Other (25%)



How does adult education support Virginia's workforce development goals?

Adult education providers teach academic and employability skills that lead to higher wages, transition learners to further education and training, increase learners' English language proficiency, and help parents become more involved in their children's education.

Virginia WIOA Combined State Plan	Adult Education's Role
Goal 1: Increase business engagement and deliver value to our business customers.	Adult education providers are part of the workforce development system's Business Service Team, reaching out to employers in the community. All adult education classes incorporate workforce preparation activities that help learners acquire the competencies employers value, such as critical thinking, digital literacy, self-management, and employability skills to prepare adults for successful employment.
Goal 2: Achieve measurable skills development in our job-seeking customers in the form of workforce credentials that matter to business.	Adult education participants achieve skill gains in academic and career readiness skills and English language proficiency, and earn high school equivalency, workplace, and industry-recognized credentials.
Goal 3: Fill jobs in demand occupations that show promise for long-term growth in industries that are strategic to Virginia's economy and strengthen Virginia's regions.	Integrated education and training cohorts are offered around the Commonwealth, providing adults with opportunities to learn academic and employability skills as they simultaneously earn credentials for employment in high-demand occupations.
Goal 4: Help individuals, including individuals with barriers, gain access to jobs that pay family-sustaining wages and provide opportunities for career progression.	Adult education providers coordinate services with workforce development partners and community service agencies to assist individuals who face barriers to employment to complete education and training and enter employment.
Goal 5: Ensure that workforce system public investments generate a quality return to Virginia and the customers we serve.	Customized integrated education and training offered through the PluggedInVA program costs an average of \$3,000 per student. Graduates are equipped with high school equivalency, digital literacy, and occupational credentials for an in-demand job. Through career coaching and workforce preparation activities, graduates are ready to advance on a career pathway.



Our participants are:

- **Workers**, more than 50 percent report being employed when they enroll
- **Lifelong learners**, enrolling in postsecondary education and training during and after leaving the program
- **Work-ready**, equipped with valuable workplace preparation skills such as critical thinking, digital literacy, self-management, and employability skills
- **The workforce of today**, gaining additional skills and credentials to put to use immediately

Our providers serve local employers' talent needs by:

- Providing job information and access to thousands of job seekers
- Designing integrated education and training programs with local employers to fill current openings
- Serving on all local workforce development boards, on regional Business Services Teams, and in all comprehensive Virginia Career Works Centers

Our instructors are:

- Experienced, dedicated and trained – engaging in over 7,000 hours of professional development delivered through the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center in a single program year

Our partners include:

- Regional workforce development boards and operators of the Virginia Career Works Centers
- State partners such as the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), and the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Community non-profit service organizations such as Goodwill Industries, the United Way, and local ProLiteracy volunteer chapters
- Local employers



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