

## Adult Education

### *By the Numbers*

- Adult education is a plan for self-sufficiency. Graduating from high school or earning a GED increases the likelihood of leaving welfare by 75%.
- Obtaining a high school diploma, GED or higher education degree nearly doubles the probability for working and staying employed.
- Over the past 25 years, the earning gap has widened between those who have a bachelor's degree and those who have not graduated from high school.
- Nationwide, 20% of the population does not have a high school diploma.
- 70% of the inmates in America's prisons can't read above the fourth grade level. (ProLiteracy)
- 42% of Florida's prison population can not read above the sixth grade level. (Florida Department of Corrections.)
- 75% of unemployed adults have reading or writing difficulties. (National Institute for Literacy)
- One in five Florida adults (more than 2.6 million) who are 16 years and older lack even the most basic reading skills according to estimates released in 2009 from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).
- Only 40% of adults who dropped out of high school are employed, compared to 60% of adults who completed high school and 80% for those with a bachelor's degree. (Southern Regional Education Board)
- An adult without a high school diploma earns 42% less than an adult with a high school diploma. (U.S. Department of Education)
- The number of Florida's children (persons under the age of 18) living in poverty is 19.3%. (U.S. Department of Commerce, April, 2006)

# Adult Education:

*The Choice that  
Makes the Most  
"Cents"*

*"Florida has a festering economic problem. It is called 'illiteracy,' and it represents a cancer on workforce development and economic growth. It is a sure prescription for poverty. The literacy problem is not one of immigration or migrant workers. The problem is we have too many Florida residents, native English speakers, who find written English a jumble of confusing letters not easily understood. This can and must be the fight of those who understand we need literate people to grow an economy."*

*Tampa Bay Business Journal*



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# Balance Sheet

*Profit and Loss:  
Impact of Adult Education*

## Impact of Adult Education

*Making "Cents" for Florida*

<b>LOSS</b> <i>(without Adult Education)</i>	<b>PROFIT</b> <i>(with Adult Education)</i>
Welfare rolls increase. Drain on social services and health care. Adults without a GED struggle to support their families and need public assistance.	Adults become self sufficient. Gain self-esteem and sense of personal and civic responsibility. Lower unemployment. Ability to obtain higher paying jobs. More job security.
In a year, approximately 30,000 inmates are admitted into Florida's prison system. 42% of inmates are at the basic literacy skill level (1.0-5.9) About 1/3 of all inmates return to prison within 3 years.	Recidivism declines with adult education and job training for the incarcerated. For each higher education grade tested, re-imprisonment probability is lowered by 3.5% - 4.0%.
The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence and crime is welded to reading failure. (U.S. Department of Justice) Florida's graduation rate for 2006-2007 is 74.4%. Students who transfer out of state, withdraw to attend private school, home schooled, or attend adult education programs are removed from the graduation rate.	Adult education is a second chance and best hope for high school dropouts. Adult education increases high school graduation rates through FCAT remediation and adult education credit recovery programs. Adult education students can earn a GED, adult high school diploma or a bachelor's degree.
Continued cycle of family illiteracy. Continued cycle of poverty.	Literate adults are crucial to the development of school-ready and literate children. Adult education helps mothers and fathers be their child's first teacher, which enhances the child's readiness and success in schools.
Unemployment. Low-level or entry-level jobs. Dead- end jobs without possibility of advancement.	Adult education is the stepping stone to career, technical, vocational programs and post secondary education. Higher educational skills translate into higher wages and a more productive workforce for Florida.
New immigrants are more likely to be unemployed. Almost half of all foreign-born workers are "limited English proficient." (2000 Census) Foreign born residents with poor English skills face high unemployment and limited economic opportunities. Many immigrants are parents of children enrolled in Florida's public schools.	Adult education enables immigrants to increase their English proficiency, helping them increase their earning potential and opportunities for gainful employment. Enhancing the immigrant parent's English proficiency allows them to support their child's academic achievement.
Lack of preparatory skills for those seeking post-secondary education. Remediation is costly to community colleges, state colleges and universities.	Floridians' quality of life is impacted by their employment. Adult education provides the foundation to transition to higher educational levels, higher wages, professional jobs and helps Floridians improve their economic condition and become contributors to the economy and their families.

- Cost of 1 Florida family on welfare (cash assistance and food stamps only) for 1 year – \$10,872. (Department of Children and Families)
- Cost to provide adult education classes to 1 Floridian for 1 year - \$1,200.

- Cost of 1 incarcerated Floridian for 1 year - \$19,000 - \$25,000. Costs can soar to over \$100,000 for inmates with health issues such as HIV, diabetes, cancer.
- Cost of providing adult education classes or job training to 1 incarcerated Floridian - \$372.30 per year. (Florida Department of Corrections)

- Recidivism rate of inmates with no job training or adult education opportunities is approximately 30%.
- Inmates who earn a GED are 8.7% less likely to recidivate than those who do not complete a program.
- Inmates who earn vocational certificates are 14.6% less likely to recidivate.
- For every \$1.00 of investment in correctional education, there is a return of \$3.20 to the state. (Florida Department of Corrections)

- A Florida resident who lacks a GED/high school diploma earns a median yearly income of approximately \$18,000 - \$21,000.
- A Florida resident with a GED/high school diploma earns a median yearly income of \$24,000.
- A Florida resident with a two-year AA degree earns a median yearly income of \$40,000.
- A Florida resident with a bachelor's degree earns a yearly income of \$50,900 and higher. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)

- Approximately 15% of American adults have undiagnosed learning disabilities, which may cause student failure in traditional high school settings, low self esteem, and low earning potential.
- Adult education programs are a second chance for adults with learning disabilities to achieve success by gaining their GED/high school diploma and increasing their earning potential.

- In Florida, 26% of our residents do NOT have a high school diploma.
- In Florida, over 33,000 individuals earned their GED during the 2009 school year through adult education.