

# ACE OF FLORIDA 2019 ADVOCACY AGENDA



## VALUE OF THE FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (GED®)

ACE of Florida supports and advocates for the Florida High School Diploma (GED®) to be recognized as a credential “of equal value” to a standard high school diploma issued by Florida school districts as prescribed in Florida Statute 1003.435 and defined in the Florida Administrative Code 6A-6.0201 State of Florida High School Diploma, with the following considerations:

- **Gateway to Postsecondary Education:** This high school equivalency diploma is accepted, at face value, at all Florida postsecondary career centers, technical colleges and state colleges as satisfying the high school diploma admission requirement.
- **Rigorous Content:** Student scores of 175-200 on any GED® test are equivalent to the performance of the top 1-8% of graduating seniors; scores of 165-174 to the top 9-27% of graduating seniors.
- **Economic Development:** Adults with a high school diploma are more likely to work full-time and average 20% higher earnings (\$30,000); well above the poverty line for a family of four. (Hoover Institution Study)



## POLICY CHANGE NEEDED

- School district graduation rates should not be negatively impacted by a student’s pursuit of a Florida High School Diploma (GED®) in a State of Florida Adult Education Program.
- School district graduation rates should not be negatively impacted by the use of the withdrawal code W-26.



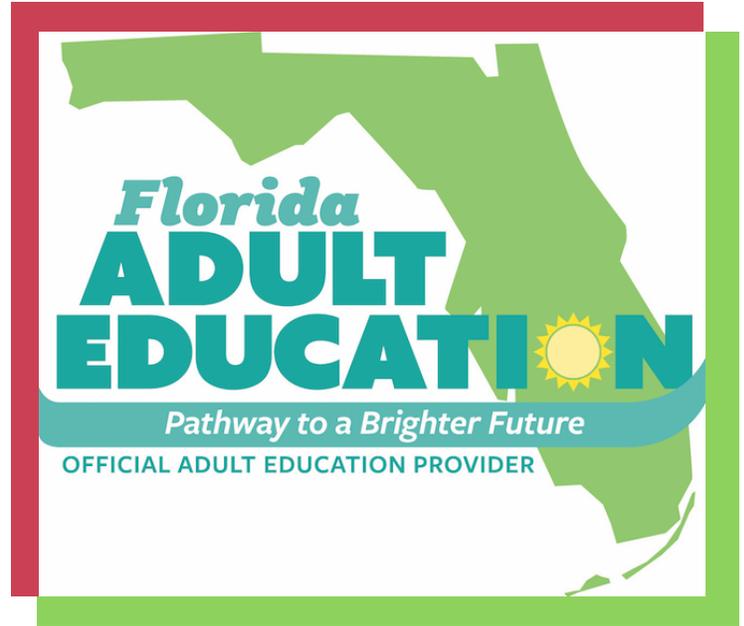
Adult and Community Educators of Florida, Inc.

# OPPOSE STATE FUNDING FOR PRIVATE ADULT EDUCATION PROVIDERS

The Florida Legislature, through the Florida Department of Education, Department of Career and Adult Education, provides state funding for adult education programs that includes the funding for adults 16 years of age or older to achieve the State of Florida High School Diploma (GED®). **The State of Florida High School Diploma (GED®) is accepted, at face value, at all Florida post-secondary career centers, technical colleges and state colleges, as satisfying their high school diploma admission requirement.**

This is **not** the case with many privately credentialed diplomas, causing students to seek additional education at additional expense prior to beginning their post-secondary education journey.

The use of state funds (taxpayer dollars) to support private adult education programs is an unnecessary duplication of effort. **ACE of Florida opposes the diversion of school district and state college funds, the use of state funding by the Florida Legislature, and/or the use of state funds by a state agency, for the purpose of providing private (profit or not for profit) adult education programs.**



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