

ACE OF FLORIDA 2020 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:** The Florida High School Diploma (GED®) is accepted, on face, 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:** 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.



INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ADULT EDUCATION

ACE of Florida supports the Coalition of Adult Basic Education (COABE) request that at the federal level, for the 2020 Fiscal Year, the House and Senate adopt the House position of \$685.7 million in adult education funding and that figure be included in any final appropriations bills.



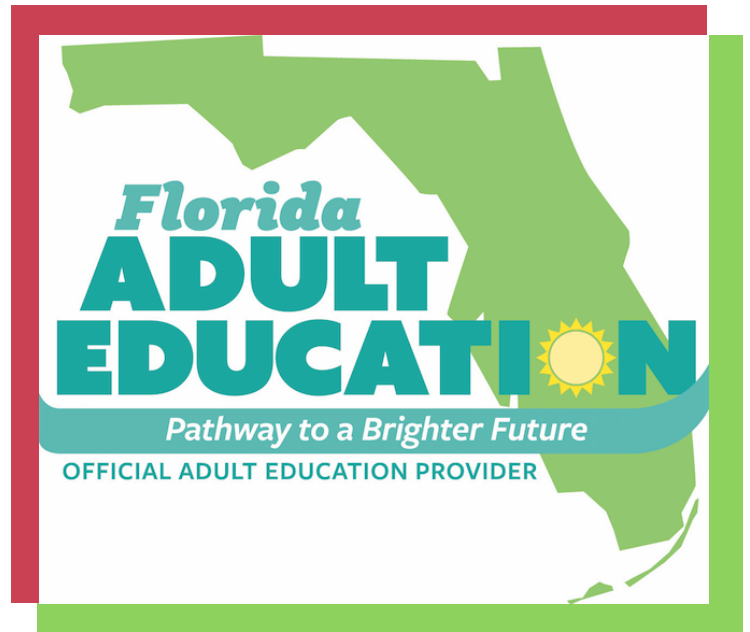
OPPOSE STATE FUNDING FOR PRIVATE ADULT EDUCATION PROVIDERS

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 and over to achieve the State of Florida High School Diploma (GED®). **The State of Florida High School Diploma (GED®) is accepted, on face, at all Florida postsecondary career centers, technical colleges and state colleges as satisfying the high school diploma admission requirement.** This is **not** the case with many privately credentialed diplomas, causing students to seek additional education at additional expense

The use of state funds (taxpayer dollars) to support private adult education programs is an unnecessary duplication of effort. ACE of Florida opposes 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 adult education programs. **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.**



Adult and Community Educators of Florida, Inc.



SUPPORT THE FDOE, DCAE 2020-2021 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST

ACE of Florida supports the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) as submitted by the Florida Department of Education, Department of Career and Adult Education. .

