

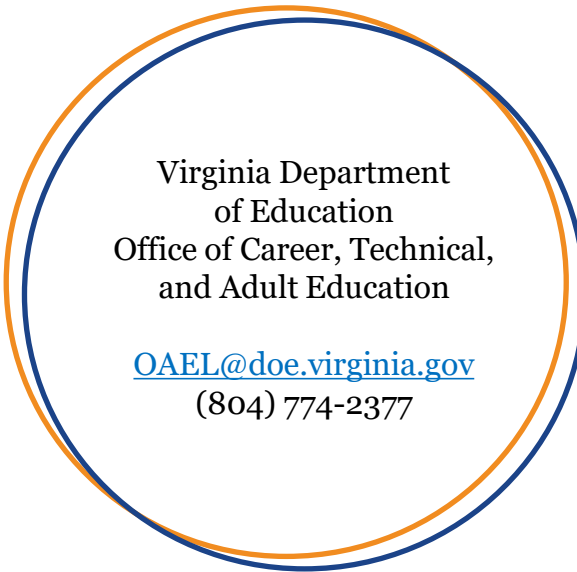
Virginia embraces four strategic goals for the workforce system. These goals are:

Goal 1: Prepare Virginia’s workers for current and future career pathways that provide competitive wages.

Goal 2: Deliver workforce services that support business growth in Virginia’s leading-edge economy.

Goal 3: Provide outreach and recruitment services that increase awareness and access to Virginia’s workforce development ecosystem.

Goal 4: Reduce workforce system barriers through dynamic collaboration, coordination, and communication with Virginia Works as the hub-and-spoke model.



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Adult Education’s Role in the Workforce Development System



Virginia’s nation leading workforce ecosystem will equip Virginians with the skills they need and enable employers to attract, grow, and retain them – ensuring the future of a thriving Commonwealth. In parallel with the stand-up of Virginia Works, we will accelerate the coordination, enhancement, and future-readiness of the Commonwealth’s many workforce programs and stakeholders across the government and broader ecosystem through a formal process.

Vision statement from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia 2024-2027



Did you know? 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.



Workers with a high school diploma or GED® credential can earn on average \$9,000 more per year than those without, and workers with an occupational credential can earn even more.

Training is offered in high-demand, well-paying occupations:

Industries	Average Hourly Wage in Virginia*	Projected Number of Positions in Virginia by 2026**
Accommodations and Food Service	\$13.22	27,388
Construction	\$22.65	15,526
Education	\$22.55	41,433
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$14.28	113,151
Information Technology	\$54.50	72,621
Retail Trade	\$13.61	17,374

Our participants are:

- **Workers**, with more than 50 percent of our students reporting being employed
- **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 valued credentials to put to use immediately

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
 **Virginia Jobs Outlook 2026 (VEC)

Educational preparation for improved literacy, numeracy, and English language proficiency is a key to a better quality of life. According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, over 640,000 Virginia adults do not have a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential, and many more lack literacy in key areas such as math or workforce preparation skills.

How Can Adult Education Support Businesses and Workforce Development?

Adult education providers can design customized solutions to meet local business needs:

- integrated education and training or pre-apprenticeship programs;
- offer classes at worksites to improve employees' academic skills, workforce preparation, and English language proficiency; and
- connect local businesses with adults who are work-ready, lifelong learners.



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

See the [Adult Education Administrators Directory](#)

Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2023, Virginia adult education reported:

- **77,160 participants**; most in their prime working years
- **3,159** high school equivalency credentials (e.g. GED® and adult high school diploma) earned
- **1,582** participants who transitioned to postsecondary education
- **6,562** participants who made gains in academic and career readiness skills
- Over **13,912** participants who made gains in English language proficiency
- **6,619** participants participated in integrated education and training (IET) programs that lead to an industry-recognized credential
- **2,973** participants served in correctional facilities

Our instructors are:

Experienced, dedicated, and trained, offering flexible instruction to help adults meet their goals.

Our partners include:

- Regional workforce development boards and operators of the Virginia Career Works Centers
- State partners such as the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement, the Virginia Community College System, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Virginia Employment Commission, and the Department of Social Services
- Community non-profit service organizations such as Goodwill Industries, the United Way, and local literacy volunteer chapters
- Local employers and job recruiters