Department of Education

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# ADULT EDUCATION MEMO NO. 63-23 FOLLOW UP

**DATE:** February 2, 2024

**TO:** Adult Education Program Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. J. Anthony Williams, Director

Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

## SUBJECT: Celebrating the Generosity of Community Support for Adult Learners

The purpose of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), title II of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) of 2014, is to create a partnership among the federal government, states, and localities to provide, on a voluntary basis, adult education and literacy activities, in order to assist adults:

* + become literate and build economic self-sufficiency
  + who are parents or family members of school age children become full partners in the educational development of their children
  + earn a secondary school diploma and in the transition to postsecondary education and training
  + who are immigrants develop skills in English and learn the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic participation
  + who are incarcerated prepare for successful re-entry into society

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is the administering agency of the adult education program. Awards are made to fiscal agents that administer programs in 22 regions and to providers of Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education programming for immigrants and refugees. Our communities across the Commonwealth benefit from these partnerships that supported over 18,000 adult learners in program year 2022-2023. Adult education programs in Virginia serve learners facing barriers to employment due to low educational attainment and other barriers, serve a majority-minority population, and serve over 60 percent of students in English language classes.

Over the past ten years, the federal award to Virginia increased from $12,677,092 in program year 2014-2015 to $14,981,290 in program year 2023-2024. The federal award requires a 25% state match; in Virginia, part of that match is made up by a required 15% match from providers. The state matching funds, General Adult Education and Adult Literacy (granted out under the name State Lead Coordinating Agency), have remained steady over that period at $3.3 million, while the required local match has risen with the increased federal award amounts.

Providers and local communities have stepped up their investment in adult education to expand and support programming and rising educator salaries. We recognize that these investments that are above and beyond the requirements make services more robust, consistent, and responsive to community needs.

A request was issued to providers for a voluntary, exploratory data collection to understand the scale of the additional support provided by fiscal agents and partners. We received estimates from nearly all current grantees with a cumulative total of more than the total amount of federal awards granted in program year 2023-2024. The generosity of local communities shared in this snapshot is truly worth celebrating.

The types of additional local support that were shared include:

* Personnel costs, including full- and part-time administrative, office, and instructional positions, benefits, and professional development
* Use of office and classroom space and equipment
* Supply of and technical support for instructional technology
* Outreach and promotional materials, printing, distribution, and website hosting
* Volunteers’ contributions which are essential to assisting learners to persist and reach their goals

While this was an exploratory data collection exercise and is not expected to be repeated, it does offer invaluable information on what it takes to provide the level of programming providers deliver in their communities. Learn more online about Virginia’s adult education [providers](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/specialized-instruction/adult-education/adult-education-regional-programs), [trends in student populations and performance](https://doe-virginia-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/MvYGOa1SZYei-rjLNdIKaiO13cOkdHF3mhVuW87_u53hiV-ffFgh6GRsj4wSiuwD.Fak2NoNUqkXzhSG1?startTime=1698425035000) (Passcode: LPX+vV0x), and [student success stories](https://valrc.org/news/?_sft_category=stories-from-the-field).

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