

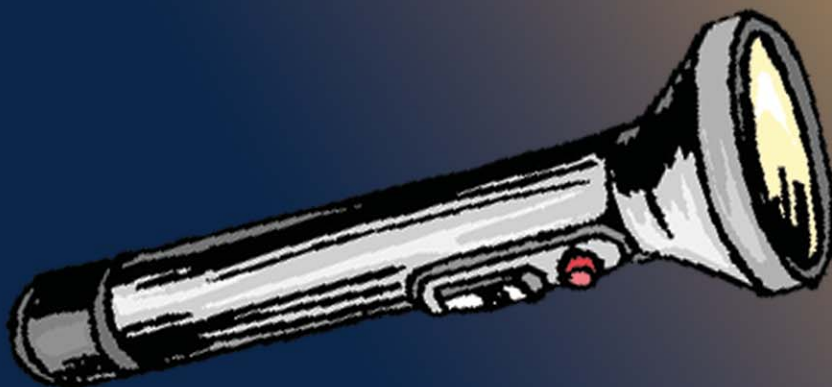


This information is brought to you by
Kentucky Association for Adult and Continuing Education
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- **How can you support Adult Education?**
- Support increased funding of Adult Education programs; refuse any proposal to cut spending.
- Visit local adult education classes and meet staff and students.
- Inform fellow legislators and community leaders about the importance of Adult Education.

Adult Education



is lighting the way!

Why is Adult Education absolutely essential to Kentucky?

Allow us to shed some light on the subject ...

• *Adult Education helps build a skilled, educated workforce and impacts state economic growth.* •

FACT: One in five Kentuckians age 25 and older do not have a high school diploma or GED, compared to 14.85 percent nationally. (Current Population Survey, 2004)

How AE Is Helping: In 2005 alone, 9,757 earned their GEDs. These graduates will earn an average of \$7,827 more per year than non-graduates; the potential increased earnings for the GED Class of 2005 will be more than \$1.5 billion over a 20-year period. [Mortenson's "Postsecondary Education Opportunity" median earnings in 2003 (U.S.)] This increase in earning potential impacts GED graduates and their families, as well as state tax revenues.

FACT: Of 2.4 million working-age Kentuckians, 40 percent (nearly one million) function at the two lowest levels of literacy. (Kentucky Adult Literacy Survey, 2003)

How AE Is Helping: These individuals cannot read a bus schedule, safety manual, note from a teacher or doctor, or a menu. They desperately need the basic skills classes provided by Adult Education.

FACT: Eighty percent of new jobs created in the next two decades will require some postsecondary education. (Adult Learners and State Policy, 2003, State Higher Education Executive Officers and the Council for Adult and Experiential Education)

How AE Is Helping: Thanks to Adult Education (AE), more individuals are entering postsecondary education. These new college students include: GED graduates; adult learners, including non-traditional and older students, who require remediation before beginning college coursework; and non-native English speakers.

• *Better-Educated, Healthier Parents = Better Educated, Healthier Kids.* •

FACT: A U.S. Department of Education study states that a parent is a child's first and best teacher; the greatest indicator of a child's educational success is the education attainment level of his mother.

How AE Is Helping: Adult Education programs prepare parents to be full partners in the education of their children; better-educated parents are more involved in their children's education. Increasing the parents' education also assists in improving their own and their children's health, as well as reducing the potential for child abuse.

• *Adult Education serves an ever-increasing immigrant/refugee population.* •

FACT: The 2000 U.S. Census indicated that there were 124,281 legal immigrants/refugees residing in Kentucky, and these numbers have grown exponentially. (The Hispanic population in Jefferson County alone is estimated to be nearly 12,500.)

How AE Is Helping: Younger workers are not being born; immigrants/refugees are the fastest growing segment of our workforce. The English as a Second Language (ESL) services offered by Adult Education providers are an essential piece of ensuring these new residents' success.

During the 2004-2005 school year, 124,801 Kentuckians benefitted from the services provided by Adult Education.

