



# MAINE ADULT EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

120 programs  
117,617 learners

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

## Executive Summary

Maine Adult Education consists of 120 publicly funded adult education programs with 117,617 learners registered throughout our state. Local communities have strongly supported the Adult Education System for many reasons including:

- Educational Attainment
- Economic Development
- Community Development
- Human Development

For more than forty years, the partnership between local taxpayers and state and federal governments has provided a strong, accessible, and efficient system that offers a continuum of educational services responsive to local conditions.

## Educational Attainment

**2,787 high school credentials were awarded**  
**10,755 adult learners participated in literacy**  
**2,219 adults were enrolled in college transitions courses**

In 2003-2004 school year, more than 16,055 Maine adults participated in high school completion programs offered through Maine Adult Education programs. Many of these left high school programs for family or economic reasons recently or years ago. Others represent new community members from immigrant and refugee communities who needed an American academic credential.

The majority of adults who earned their high school credential last year stated they wished to enter college. Maine Adult Education also helps another segment of our population enter and succeed in college. These individuals hold high school credentials, but do not have the skills or prerequisites necessary to succeed at our local community colleges or universities.

Only 30 percent of Maine residents 25 years and older achieve a higher education degree compared with 38 percent in the New England region. The Maine Compact for Higher Education has set a goal for Maine to have 40,000 more college graduates in the next decade. Since the number of youth will continue to decline, the increase in college matriculation must be met by currently employed adults. This is an area of growth for Adult Education and one of four strategies identified by the Compact.

“Learning is what most adults will do for a living in the 21st century.”

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For more information contact:

Maine Department of Education at 207-624-6755

<http://www.maine.gov/education/adad/index.html>;

Maine Adult Education Association at 207-875-2722 [www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org);

Literacy Volunteers of Maine at 207-773-3191 <http://www.lvmaine.org/index.html>;

or the Adult Learning Opportunities Hotline at 1-800-322-5455

## Economic Development

**23,607 Maine adults enrolled in vocational courses**  
**2,219 college transition enrollees**

Vocational education strengthens people and communities. It gives people the resources and skills they need to cope with change. Skill areas included computer technology, hard trades, allied health, and retail sales.

During the past three years, Maine Adult Education has served many of Maine's dislocated workers from more than 100 companies including small companies from all corners of the state to large mills in Millinocket and Biddeford. The workers successfully learned new skills to reenter the job market or proceed to post-secondary training.

## Community Development

**56,005 adults registered for personal enrichment classes**

Lifelong learning is one of the primary goals of our public education system. Such learning strengthens the bonds between community members. The activities are as varied as our learners and may be foreign language learning, aerobic exercise, or wreath-making. These courses are housed in our public schools but all instructional and material costs are borne by the learners.

## Human Development

**18 local programs enrolled**  
**1,469 individuals received ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) instruction**  
**250 families in family literacy**

Many of our citizens do not possess the necessary skills to function in our literate community. These skills include basic reading comprehension and numeracy skills. Many of these learners are immigrants who desperately need these skills in order to become more functioning members of our communities.

Family Literacy is another program supported by our adult education funds. These programs focus on increasing the skills of both the parents and the child since the strongest indicator of how a child will achieve and succeed in education, is the educational goals and attainment of his or her parents. Great strides for whole families have been achieved.

## Adult Education Funding

Funding for Adult Education is substantial and diverse. The foundation for all these sources is the "local share." Local share is the money local communities raise for adult education. This supports the infrastructure from which to address the local educational needs. The adult education state subsidy is used to pay for academic and vocational instructional costs and program administration. No state funding is used for community education instruction.

SOURCES	FY 2003	FY 2004
State funding	4,523,086	4,651,482
Local share	7,447,497	7,827,356
AEFLA Grant	1,904,783	1,663,282
Carl Perkins	862,547	886,859
Local contracts	980,210	1,263,701
Other contracts*	706,890	664,577
Enrollment fees	3,037,304	3,378,650
Other**	1,825,751	1,672,947
TOTALS	21,288,074	22,008,854

\* Contracts for educational services with DHS, DOL, and other state agencies

\*\* Other federal grants (e.g. Even Start Family Literacy), grants from private organizations (Barbara Bush Foundation and Nellie Mae Foundation), other school department and organization funds not detailed elsewhere.