

Office Hour FAQ

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education



COLORADO
Department of Education

December 12, 2024 Office Hour Topics:

Adult Education Initiatives

Adult Education Initiatives (AEI) supports adult education programs around the state with funding, program oversight, and technical assistance. Adult education programs offer services that include teaching reading, math, and English foundations, preparing learners with college and career readiness skills that lead to employment or the transition to post-secondary education, and helping parents obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the education of their children.

AEI's vision is to contribute to community success through collaboration that transforms individual lives, and this is done in collaboration with other offices at CDE, in particular the offices that are part of the division of Student Pathways: Postsecondary Workforce Readiness; Dropout Prevention and Student Re-Engagement; Health and Wellness. Adult education programs play a critical role in ensuring adult learners have the skills they need to reach educational and career goals, and in helping parents obtain the skills needed to be full partners in their children's education.

The Office of Adult Education Initiatives manages the federally funded [Adult Education and Family Literacy Act \(AEFLA\)](#) Grant under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the state-funded Adult Education and Literacy Act (AELA) Grant established in 2014, and the Workforce Diploma Pilot Program established in 2019.

- Adult education programs receive one or all of these grant funds. Various organizations are eligible to receive adult education funds, including school districts, institutions of higher education, libraries and non-profit organizations. The [Current Grantees page](#) has information about each of the funded programs, where they have services and what services they provide.
- The federally funded [Adult Education and Family Literacy Act](#) was reauthorized as Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in July 2014. The federal program provides formula funding to state agencies that distribute funds as grants to local adult education programs. Allowable services include adult basic and secondary education and English language acquisition in many contexts: foundational literacy, high school equivalency, family literacy, integrated English literacy and civics education, workforce preparation, workplace education, and integrated education and training.
- Grantees may provide literacy and numeracy services for adults at or below the 12th grade level; reading, writing, speaking and listening services for English Language Learners; job readiness training; and/or workforce training services for adult learners. They also create and sustain partnerships to ensure learners' needs are met holistically. Programming and partnerships are designed so individuals participating have the opportunity to obtain the skills they need to obtain employment and economic self-sufficiency. Information on other funding opportunities not managed by AEI can be found on the [Potential Funding Opportunities page](#).

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