ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AZ Adult Education and High School Equivalency Services

News to Use | September - October 2026

From the State Director...

Announcements

We are looking forward to seeing you at the *2026 Arizona Adult Education Institute* on September 17-19! The annual Institute brings together hundreds of adult educators from around the state to engage in professional learning, networking, and celebration. Please be sure to add the Institute Guidebook to your phones and/or tablets for Institute related information.
2026 Arizona Adult Education Institute | Department of Education

See you at the Institute!

During the institute we will also be celebrating the national ***Adult Education and Family Literacy Week*** held from September 14-18, 2026.

COABE will be hosting multiple events to celebrate adult education, educators, and adult learners. One of the featured events on **Wednesday, September 16, 11:00a AZ time** is the **Adult *Education Innovation Showcase: Lightning Talks with Local Programs.***

The ***Arizona Department of Education-Student Industry Partnership (SIP)*** was selected by COABE to be featured in the Innovation Showcase. SIP, one of Superintendent Horne's ADE initiatives, was developed to strengthen Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Education by aligning education, workforce partners, industry, and employers to support and develop a skilled workforce. Join us on September 16th to hear more about this initiative and other state's innovations.

COABE AEFL Week website

Adult Learner Scholarship Opportunity!

The ***Mike Rowe Works Foundation*** is offering a scholarship for work ethics. Mike wants to reward hard work with his new scholarship, offering $9,000 per accepted applicant, for people who are pursuing a skill in the trades.

For adult learners who would like to pursue training in the skilled trades–welding, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, construction, or dozens of other in-demand careers–Mike's foundation wants to provide the training students need without taking on a mountain of debt. **Learn more and apply here.**

Certification Reminder for Administrators

The ***WIOA Title II Adult Education Grant Contract*** mandates that all adult education administrators and educators must hold a current Arizona Adult Education Certificate.

Prior to hiring, and to determine if the candidate is eligible to hold Arizona certification, please refer to the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) publicly available tool, **Public Portal,** for possible discipline or open investigations for immoral or unprofessional conduct.

Program Operations & Accountability

Arizona Adult Education Performance Measures
July 1 - July 31, 2026

Statewide Enrollment	**4,475**
Statewide MSG Rate (Overall)	**13.18%**
Statewide MSG Rate (ABE)	**18.01%**
Statewide MSG Rate (ELL)	**10.12%**
Statewide Progress Test Rate	**16.31%**
Average Attendance Hours (ABE Students)	**23.5**
Average Attendance Hours (ELL Students)	**22.3**

Fiscal Services and Grants Management

Completion Reports (CRs) for FY 2026 Adult Education Grants:

- CRs for FY 2026 Adult Education grants that ended on 06/30/26 are due by 09/28/26.
- If your CR is required to be submitted to your county's office before it can be reviewed by ADE/Grants Management, please allow for appropriate processing time.
- **CRs submitted after the 09/28/26 due date may be at risk of not receiving final payment of expenditures incurred during the grant period.**
- **Outstanding CRs will result in a GME system generated hold on all active grants and delays in processing Reimbursement Requests.**

Grants Management Enterprise (GME) System Support:

- For 1:1 assistance and support with submitting Completion Reports, Reimbursement Requests, or other processing needs, please contact your organization's assigned ADE/Grants Management - Grants Coordinator (GC) at (602) 542-3901, option 2.

High School Equivalency Services

A residential requirement for GED® Testing will not be in effect at this time. However, the state office has revisited the jurisdictional policies for GED® Testing candidates:

- All IDs presented for testing must be a U.S. government issued ID.
- Beginning 10/01/2026 all age authorizations (for 16-17 year-olds) must be authorized and reviewed by submitting documents to **AdultEd@azed.gov.** PearsonVue Testing Centers will no longer be able to approve age authorizations.

Teaching & Learning

The Change Agent offers free instructional and leveled literacy resources created *by adult learners, for adult learners*. Educators can access a free library of engaging content, with a paid subscription available for full access to the complete resource collection. Adult students also have quarterly opportunities to submit their own writing for publication, amplifying student voice and celebrating learner success. Learn more: https://changeagent.nelrc.org/celebrating-partnerships-essential-education/

Institute Registration Closes on Friday, September 4



There are a **very limited number of rooms in the ADE Institute block still available** at Sheraton Phoenix Downtown.

Rooms are available on a first-come, first-serve basis until **Thursday, September 10!** Visit the Institute webpage 'Lodging Information' to book your room today!

Institute Webpage

Community Resources

AI Leadership Academy for Adult Education Administrators

Community Learning Partners and COABE are excited to introduce the **AI Leadership Academy** for Adult Education Administrators, a professional development cohort for adult education program administrators, state office staff, and other leaders.

The cohort will run from October 12 through December 11, 2026, with approximately one hour of engagement per week.

Learn about the AI Academy

2026 Counseling & Career Development Leadership Academy

Do you support adult learners through career exploration, advising, counseling, navigation, and career pathway development? Then, this is the virtual professional learning opportunity for you!

The Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD) developed this professional learning series to equip participants with practical tools and leadership skills to strengthen learner success, build effective partnerships, influence systems change, and translate policy into practice.

Information & Registration

AZ Department of Education/Adult Education Services | 1535 W. Jefferson | Phoenix, AZ 85007 US

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