



## AZ Adult Education

### News to Use - January 2026

#### From the State Director...

##### Announcements

- Welcome (back!) to Megan Baker, the new Director of Program Operations and Accountability (POA), as of January 5, 2026. Many of you may remember Megan who previously worked at ADE-AES as an Educational Program Specialist in POA for 11 years. She most recently worked for the Department of Education-Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education as a program specialist. Reach out to [megan.baker@azed.gov](mailto:megan.baker@azed.gov) and say hi!
- ADE-AES submitted the PY2024-2025 Title II State Narrative Report and Financial Fiscal Reports to DOE-OCTAE at the end of December, as mandated by WIOA Title II: AEFLA.

##### ARIZONA@WORK Updates

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) recently released a statewide report, *Workforce Training Completion and Barriers in Arizona: Program Outcomes Among WIOA Title I Participants*

2016-2024.

OEO evaluated training completion patterns, identified populations at higher risk of non-completion, and quantified the economic returns associated with finishing training for Arizona Title IB programs. The analysis is intended to inform data-driven investments in support services and program design to improve equity, completion rate, and workforce outcomes statewide.

##### Key Findings

- ARIZONA@WORK adult workforce trainings primarily serve individuals facing economic barriers, with roughly 71% of participants classified as low income, about 55% entering unemployed, and approximately 16% with low literacy levels.
- Overall, program completion was strong (79%), and completion rates varied by more than 20% across regions and programs.
- Program completion is associated with a clear earnings premium, with completers earning approximately 21% higher post-exit wages and demonstrating higher rates of employment compared to non-completers.
- Targeted wraparound and employment-connected services for women, certain racial groups, and low literacy participants represent some of the strongest leverage points for improving completion rates and maximizing the return on WIOA investments.
- **Accessing the report**

For more information, please download the report on [OEO's Workforce Evaluation webpage](#).

- **Come Join the ADE-Adult Education Team!**

Program Operations and Accountability (POA) has an immediate opening for an Education Program Specialist. Position closes on January 15, 2026. Visit the [State of Arizona Career Pages](#) for more details and to apply!

## **January 2026 AAEDMS LiteracyPro/LACES In-person Training**

The in-person training for the state's new data management system (LACES platform) will be for Administrators and Data Coordinators only.

The training will be held at:

**Helios Educational Foundation**  
**4747 N. 32nd Street**  
**Vince Roig Convening Center**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85018**

On the following days/times:

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 9:00a - 4:30p**

**Thursday, January 29, 2026, 9:00a - 4:30p**

**Friday, January 30, 2026, 9:00a - 1:00p**

Breakfast and check-in will be from 8:30a - 9:00a each day and lunch will be provided on Wednesday and Thursday.

There is no registration or fee for this in-person training. The approved participant list of program administrators and data coordinators was compiled by Program Operations and Accountability. Additional meeting details will be sent in the next few days.

For those travelling from outside metro Phoenix, a block of rooms at \$159+/night are being held at:

**Homewood Suites by Hilton**  
**2001 E. Highland Avenue**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85016**

Please use this [booking link](#) to reserve your room for **Wednesday, January 28**, and **Thursday, January 29, 2026**.

Contact [carolyn.urish@azed.gov](mailto:carolyn.urish@azed.gov) or [kariann.patrickalbert@azed.gov](mailto:kariann.patrickalbert@azed.gov) if you have additional logistics questions about this training.

### **More LiteracyPro/LACES Training Coming Soon!**

A series of virtual training webinars will be held in February 2026 for data entry staff and other program staff, identified by program administrators.

The training schedule will be made available to administrators and data coordinators the week of January 20, 2026.

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## Mini Grant Opportunity

The **Students as Leaders (SAL) Mini Grant** is now open for applications! Through generous support from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, this grant helps adult education programs and state associations send learners to the **Students as Leaders Summit on April 13, 2026, in Indianapolis, IN**. The full-day event gives adult learners the chance to strengthen leadership and communication skills, build confidence for career and financial success, and connect with peers from across the country.

Application deadline is March 13, 2025

[Get the Details!](#)

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What is the COABE Student Ambassador Training Program? A program that empowers adult learners to become confident leaders and advocates for adult education. Through this program, students gain skills in public speaking, storytelling, leadership, and advocacy while connecting with a supportive community of peers and mentors.

Who can apply? Adult learners who have participated in GED, ESL, or adult literacy programs and are ready to share their voice and experiences to make a difference in their community. We encourage program staff and instructors to join alongside learners as partners in the experience. Programs will receive optional resources and discussion prompts to support deeper conversations and build on the training within their classrooms and programs.

[Learn More](#)

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# Arizona Adult Education Performance Measures

## July 1 – November 30, 2025

Statewide Enrollment	Total Qualified Participants: 10,973
Statewide MSG Rate	30.84%
Statewide ABE MSG Rate	33.73%
Statewide ELL MSG Rate	30.81%
Statewide Progress Test Rate	41.11%
Statewide Progress Test Success Rate	47.08%
Average Attendance Hours: ABE Students	53.14 hours
Average Attendance Hours: ELL Students	57.44 hours

Next steps: Analyze your program's current MSG Rate and Average Attendance Hours.

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## Program Operations and Accountability

### IET Plan Submissions

- Additional IET plan submissions are due by January 16, 2026.
- For all currently active IETs
  - [IET Implementation Plan](#) (current version: 10/2025) replaces ALL previous versions of the document
- Inactive IETs for plans approved prior to July 1, 2025
  - Follow protocol for NEW IETs
  - Plans are due 30 days prior to proposed implementation
- As you work to submit additional IET plans, ADE Adult Education is evaluating credentials to ensure that any measurable skill gain (MSG) *Type 5 - Passing Technical/Occupational Knowledge-based Exam* earned is matched to an approved credential on the [2025-2026 CTE Credentials list](#).
- The National Retail Federation (NRF) Customer Conflict De-escalation Specialist credential will be categorized as MSG *Type 4 - Progress Towards Milestones* credential to provide consistency and alignment with the approved [CTE industry credentials list](#). This change does not affect MSG rate.

**Reminder!**

If you need to contact any member of the POA Team, remember to email [AES-POA@azed.gov](mailto:AES-POA@azed.gov) for the quickest response.



### **TABE Paper Materials Purchasing**

Paper-based testing materials must be on-site in the event a student has a documented need for this accommodation.

ADE-AES encourages local providers to coordinate efforts in purchasing materials as most come in packs of 25 or 50.

Paper-based testing material of the new forms must be available onsite for required accommodations by July 1, 2026.

### **[TABE Test Order Form](#)**

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## **Fiscal Services and Grants Management**

### **FY27 General Statement of Assurance (GSA) and Self-Assessment:**

- The FY27 General Statement of Assurance (GSA) and Self-Assessment supplements opened on January 1, 2026, and due by March 1, 2026.
- All organizations are required to submit a current organizational chart with their FY27 GSA.
- SAM.gov registrations must be active. Please see the “SAM.gov Registration” section in the GSA supplement and complete all required information, including your organization’s Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number which can be found on SAM.gov. *An inactive or expired SAM.gov registration will result in a global hold impacting all grant funding-related activity.*

### **FY27 Indirect Cost (IDC):**

- The FY27 Indirect Cost (IDC) Supplement opened on January 1, 2026, and will be available until June 30, 2026.
- Organizations must have an approved FY27 Indirect Cost (IDC) rate to be able to budget for indirect costs in any FY27 funding application.

### **FY25 Single Audit Qualifier Questionnaire:**

- The FY25 Single Audit Qualifier Questionnaire was due by December 31, 2025.
- If your organization’s FY25 questionnaire was not submitted by the due date, please submit *as soon as possible to avoid a fiscal hold that may impact grant reimbursement activity.*
- Organizations (grantees) who have expended \$750,000 or more in federal funds during FY25 must submit the Single Audit Reporting Package (SARP) within 30 days of receiving the report from a CPA firm or by March 1, 2026, whichever comes first.
- For questions or concerns, please reach out to Grants Management at (602) 542-3901, option 3.

### **Grants Management Enterprise (GME) System Virtual Technical Assistance:**

- For any 1:1 assistance and support with submitting reimbursement requests, single audits, or other processing needs, please contact your assigned ADE GME Grants Coordinator at (602) 542-3901, option 2.

## GME Trainings:

The *Grants Management Bootcamp*, scheduled on January 22, 2026, is SOLD OUT. If you would like to be placed on the waitlist, please contact the Grants Management Training Team at [gm.training@azed.gov](mailto:gm.training@azed.gov).

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## High School Equivalency Services

### HSE Plus Career Readiness Full Training Dates:

- Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 11:00a - 2:00p - [Register HERE](#)
- Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 11:00a - 2:00p - [Register HERE](#)

### Arizona Civics Exam:

- Effective as of January 1, 2026, the Arizona Civics Exam score requirement is now 70/100 (70%).

### HSE PLUS Career Readiness Pathway Update:


- All HSE Plus Career Readiness Pathway application reviews and approvals are on hold until LACES is live, February 1, 2026


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## Teaching & Learning

## Upcoming Training and Events

### AES T&L Resource of the Month

 ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

 COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES  
**CERCLL**

Link: <https://cercll.arizona.edu/>

<u>About the Resource</u>	<u>In the Classroom</u>	<u>T&amp;L Team Favorite Feature</u>
<p>The Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language, and Literacy is a Title VI Language Resource Center that supports research related to language teaching and learning and provides educators with quality resources for teaching. CERCLL also provides professional development for the meaningful integration of culture, literacy, and world language study.</p>	<p>CERCLL offers resources that help adult educators create learning experiences through global literature and digital projects. For example, the MODES Framework supports assignments where learners produce digital stories about cultural traditions using images, narration, and text. These activities build language skills, digital literacy, and awareness. The site provides planning guides, sample projects, and rubrics to make implementation easy.</p>	<p>CERCLL's Global Literacy Communities resource helps adult educators design activities that promote understanding through authentic global texts. Instructors can create reading circles where learners explore literature from around the world. The resource includes adaptable lesson plans and strategies for adult classrooms.</p>

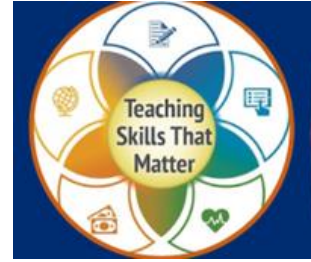
## TSTM Community of Practice

This series is designed for educators who have already been trained in the TSTM framework. The bi-monthly meetings offer opportunities to:

- Revisit key elements of the TSTM framework
- Share lessons, strategies, and resources
- Ask questions and get support!

Single registration enrolls you in all remaining sessions for this program year:

- **Friday, March 6, 2026, 10:00a - 11:00a**
- **Friday, May 1, 2026, 10:00a – 11:00a**



[Register Now](#)

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### REGISTER TODAY!

A promotional graphic for the TNT Conference. It features a central image of a calendar page for January 16, 2026, next to a coffee cup. The background is a dark blue grid with glowing hexagons containing icons of a laptop, a graduation cap, and a person. The National Department of Education logo is in the top right corner. The text "TNT CONFERENCE (TEACHERS N' TECHNOLOGY)" is prominently displayed. Below it, a description of the conference and a list of topics are provided. A large orange triangle on the right contains the date "JANUARY 16, 2026". A blue circle at the bottom right contains the text "Click here to register!".

Get ready for a day filled with innovation and inspiration!

**TNT  
CONFERENCE  
(TEACHERS N'  
TECHNOLOGY)**

Teachers N' Technology Conference 5.0 is a one-day virtual event designed to empower adult education practitioners with the tools and strategies to transform teaching through technology.

Discover how to:

- Enhance the learner experience with engaging tech tools
- Extend your classroom through blended and distance learning
- Boost program effectiveness and efficiency

Whether you're tech-savvy or just starting your digital journey, this conference has something for everyone. Don't miss out—this is the event you've been waiting for!

**JANUARY  
16, 2026**

Click here to register!

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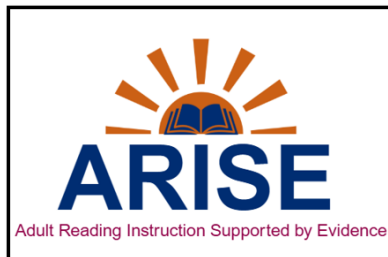


Curriculum for Adults Learning Math, or CALM, was developed by the [Technical Education Research Center \(TERC\) development team](#) to craft a coherent progression of units and lessons that integrates the Mathematical Standards domains and levels.

CALM features units that focus on building students' conceptual understanding of core math concepts before delving deeper. Each unit includes complete lesson plans, formative assessments for each lesson, and a performance-based assessment. CALM also focuses on the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education (CCRSAE), including the key shifts and the Standards for Mathematical Practice.

For more detail on CALM, including the application and important training dates, visit the [ADE AES state leadership initiative](#) webpage.

**Applications are due Friday, January 23, 2026!**



### **ARISE Year 2+ Refresher for Continuing Programs**

ARISE Year 2+ is required for those who completed STAR training in PY2024-25. ARISE Refreshers are designed to continue the growth of evidence-based reading instruction at programs where STAR has been implemented.

Join the Arizona ARISE trainers as they present the Comprehension Refresher this month!

**Friday, January 30, 2026, 9:00a – 10:30a**

[\*\*Register Now\*\*](#)

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# ABE

## STANDARDS

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Take a deep dive into the Arizona Adult Education Standards! Participants will engage in collaborative activities designed to review content standards and indicators and engage in instructional implementation strategies and resources. The ABE strand focuses on using the standards to increase student outcomes in reading; writing; and critical thinking in all content areas.

Saturday, January 31, 2025  
8:30a - 4:30p  
ADE South Campus  
1535 W. Jefferson Street  
Cicero Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**[REGISTER NOW](#)**

# ELP

## STANDARDS

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This interactive session, designed for ESOL instructors, will enhance their understanding of the standards. The session uses the Arizona Adult Education English Language Proficiency Standards to increase student outcomes in reading; writing; and critical-thinking in all content areas which are crucial to guiding adult learners toward educational and career success.

Saturday, January 31, 2025  
8:30a - 4:30p  
ADE South Campus  
1535 W. Jefferson Street  
Cato Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**[REGISTER NOW](#)**

### **PY2025-26 Teaching and Learning Webinar Series:**

#### ***Engaging and Sustaining Learner Motivation in the Adult Ed Classroom***

Engagement is the cornerstone of successful teaching and learning. When learners feel motivated and connected, they are more likely to persist, participate actively, and achieve measurable skill gains. This two-part professional development series is designed to provide adult education instructors with practical tools to spark and sustain learner motivation throughout a course. Delivered in two interactive, hour-long sessions, this training combines research-based strategies with hands-on activities and reflective practice. Participants will leave with a collection of ready-to-use methods tailored to diverse classroom environments.

This series is presented by Dr. Daisy Shah, Department of Adult and Community Education in Palm Beach County, Florida.

**[Part I: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 3:00p - 4:00p](#)**

**[Part II: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 3:00p - 4:00p](#)**




**AES PRESENTS**

# BEST

## Building an EdTech Strategy Toolkit

The Building an EdTech Strategy Toolkit Course (BEST) is designed to help instructors develop adaptable edtech routines tailored to their unique contexts. This course uses a blended model, including five synchronous virtual sessions, to guide participants through a carefully sequenced set of considerations as they work to complete the design of edtech routines for their classroom.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**



**\*1:00pm-3:00pm\***  
**FEBRUARY 5**  
**FEBRUARY 19**  
**MARCH 5**  
**MARCH 26**  
**APRIL 23 SHOWCASE**



### [PY2025-2026 Self-Paced Courses for Adult Educators](#)

The following courses are now open. Courses are to be completed by June 30, 2026. Click the course link below to register in the APLD system:

[TABE Proctor Certification](#)

[TABE Coordinator Certification](#)

[Arizona Adult Education 101](#)

[Pathways to the High School Equivalency \(HSE\) Diploma](#)

[ADE/AES Educational Technology Courses-Digital Literacy for Teachers \(Beginner\)](#)

[ADE/AES Educational Technology Courses-Digital Literacy for Teachers \(Intermediate\)](#)

[ADE/AES Educational Technology Courses-Blended Learning Certification](#)

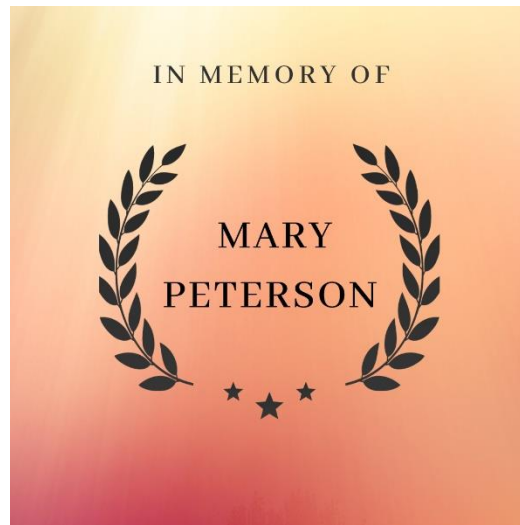
[ADE/AES Educational Technology Courses-Building a Google Site for Your Blended Classroom](#)

[ADE/AES HyFlex and Virtual Learning Engagement Course](#)

[ADE/AES Digital Resilience in the American Workforce \(DRAW\)](#)

[ADE/AES Introduction to English Language Proficiency Standards](#)

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Mary Peterson was an educator for 40+ years and taught in Germany for two years. She worked at many adult education programs throughout the valley where she also mentored colleagues.

Mary retired last July after working at ACYR for seven years, but returned as a substitute when the program needed her in a pinch. She was so loved by her students that they didn't want her replaced after she finished subbing!

Mary was a kind and wonderful person. She was known for her baking skills and even made time to bring 20 boxes of homemade Christmas cookies to the ACYR staff shortly before her passing.

Our condolences to Mary's family and her many friends and colleagues.

