



AZ Adult Education

News to Use - March 2026

From the State Director...

Announcements

- Arizona received a 30-day extension from the Department of Labor to complete and submit the revised **PY2026-2028 Arizona WIOA Unified State Plan**, as mandated in WIOA. The state plan revisions are led by the ARIZONA@WORK core partners, including Title II Adult Education. The revised state plan will be released for public comment on or about March 23rd. Program administrators will be notified when the plan is available for review.
- Thank you to the program administrators and adult education staff who attended one of the *Regional Workforce Meetings*, sponsored by Title IV-Rehabilitation Services, an ARIZONA@WORK core partner. Title II was represented at each of the regional meetings, and this was a good opportunity to network and connect with other core partner staff in your region.



The ADE Regional Workforce Collaborative Meetings, sponsored by CTE and Title II Adult Education, held its 10th regional meeting on February 25, 2026, on the beautiful campus of Central Arizona College in Coolidge. Over 55 attendees, representing employers and businesses, education partners, WIOA core partners and local workforce area staff, Title II program administrators and instructors, and CAC faculty, engaged in lively roundtable discussions focused on developing and expanding the opportunities for adult and CTE students to participate in work-based learning and apprenticeship programs.

Joel Millman (pictured right), executive director of the Pinal County Local Workforce Area/Board, presented economic development information and workforce updates for Pinal County.

Thank you to Central Arizona College for hosting this meeting!

U.S. Department of Labor announces \$81M RESTART Grant Opportunity

The RESTART Grant opportunity supports the advancement of workforce readiness skills and the attainment of employment for ex-offenders across three populations: youth (ages 15-17 years old), young adults (ages 18-24 years old), and adults (ages 25 years old and above). Funds will be awarded to eligible entities to develop programs to train ex-offenders for high-need American jobs and assist them in being productive contributors to the U.S. economy. Questions regarding this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) may be emailed to Alexander Heron at RESTART_FOA-ETA-26-17@dol.gov.

For more information, visit <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20260225>.

Closing date is April 15, 2026.



KUDOS to the 70+ adult education program administrators, data specialists, and ADE staff who completed the AAEDMS LiteracyPro/LACES Training Series to prepare for the new adult education data management system. The three-day in-person training was held at the Helios Education Foundation in Phoenix and was led by LACES trainers and ADE staff.

From the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity

Despite recent shifts in the broader economic landscape, Arizona's labor market is projected to continue its expansion across the vast majority of its major sectors. The overall pace of growth is expected to stabilize compared to the rapid hiring surges of recent years. Moving forward, employers are adopting a more strategic and deliberate approach to workforce expansion as they navigate evolving market conditions.

- Health Care and Social Assistance is expected to add 26,418 jobs (2.6% annually), growing from 496,508 in Q2 2025 to 522,926 in Q2 2027. This sector remains one of Arizona's fastest-growing sectors, supported by ongoing population growth and the steady demand for healthcare services.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities is projected to grow by 7,171 jobs (0.6% annually) from 634,054 in Q2 2025 to 641,225 in Q2 2027. The slowdown in this sector reflects broader industry maturity and supply chain normalization, reducing the surge-driven demand seen in previous years while maintaining a stable, massive workforce.
- Leisure and Hospitality is expected to add 5,749 jobs (0.7% annually), increasing from 398,142 in Q2 2025 to 403,891 in Q2 2027. The sector will continue to contribute to Arizona's employment gains, building on the state's appeal as a travel destination and ongoing consumer demand for dining, accommodation, and recreational activities.

- Manufacturing is projected to grow by 2,073 jobs (0.5% annually), expanding from 192,528 in Q2 2025 to 194,601 in Q2 2027. This steady expansion highlights Arizona's continuing evolution as a regional production hub, supported by sustained capital investment in advanced manufacturing and high-tech facilities.
- Construction is expected to add 1,296 jobs (0.3% annually) from 228,097 in Q2 2025 to 229,393 in Q2 2027. Continued in-migration and infrastructure development will support job growth, though the notably slower pace of expansion reflects a moderation in building permit activity and evolving conditions in the residential housing market.

Education Forward Arizona Scholarship Opportunities

Access to education and training beyond high school is essential to building a skilled, competitive workforce and ensuring Arizonans are prepared for today's and tomorrow's high-growth, high-wage careers. Education Forward Arizona connects education to opportunity by helping students earn workforce-aligned certificates, licenses and degrees that lead to meaningful careers and long-term economic mobility.

Learn more about current scholarship opportunities from Education Forward Arizona by clicking [here](#).

Arizona Adult Education Performance Measures

Adult education performance measures are unavailable due to the implementation of AAEDMS LiteracyPro/LACES and ongoing program data entry, which will continue through March 16. Arizona's performance metrics will be shared in the next administrative e-newsletter

Fiscal Services and Grants Management

FY27 Self-Assessment & General Statement of Assurance (GSA): **Now Overdue**

- The FY27 Self-Assessment is open and is required to be completed to submit the General Statement of Assurance (GSA).
- All organizations are placed on a precautionary 2027 Global Hold until they have an accepted GSA.
- Questions? Call the GM Tech Team at 602-542-3901, option 1 or review the GSA Fast Facts resource [HERE](#).

FY27 Indirect Cost (IDC): **Available Soon**

- The FY27 IDC Supplement will open soon in GME.
- Counties, colleges, and other government offices must request to be added to the Indirect Cost – Counties, IHEs, and Other Gov't supplement in GME via Help Desk. Once added, the entity may apply for IDC directly through the Counties, IHEs, and Other Gov't Indirect Cost option.

Important Update for FY27 Funding Applications:

- ADE will open most funding applications this year on April 1, 2026.

- ADE Program Areas will communicate with recipient organizations if the open date is different than April 1, 2026.
- Funding applications should be submitted as soon as possible after the April 1, 2026, opening, to ensure that there is ample time to obtain director approval before July 1, 2026.
- Preliminary allocations will be loaded but may be reduced based on the federal government and the final details of the federal budget once passed.
- ADE is doing all it can to provide organizations with an accurate estimate at this time.
- As more information is made available, organizations will be kept informed.
- Downward or upward adjustments will be made to preliminary allocations once more information is known.

GME Fiscal Monthly Reports:

- Fiscal Monthly Reports are available by the 15th in the organization's LEA Document Library and should be viewed each month to review remaining available grant funding.
- ADE-Grants Management recommends submitting regular Reimbursement Requests for all open grants (ideally once a month or more often).

GME Virtual Technical Assistance:

- For requesting 1:1 assistance and support with submitting Reimbursement Requests, Completion Reports, or other processing needs, please contact your organization's assigned Grants Coordinator at 602-542-3901, option 2, to schedule a virtual technical assistance session.

FY25 Single Audit Qualifier Questionnaire: Now Overdue

- The FY25 Single Audit Qualifier Questionnaire (SAQQ) was due December 31, 2025. Organizations that did not complete the SAQQ have been placed on a fiscal hold, which will affect all grant reimbursement activities. Fiscal holds will be lifted once the SAQQ has been submitted.

FY25 Single Audit Reporting Package (SARP): Due Soon

- If your organization has expended \$750,000 or more in all federal funds combined during FY25, the Single Audit Reporting Package will be due to ADE within 30 days of receipt from the CPA firm or nine months after your organization's fiscal year end, whichever comes first. For organizations with a fiscal year end date of June 30, 2025, the FY25 SARPs are due to ADE by March 31, 2026.

High School Equivalency Services

High School Equivalency Parent Permission Form

- ADE's HSE team has developed a form through the GED Testing Pathway for parents of students under the age of 18, who are pursuing a HSE diploma. Access and bookmark the [Arizona High School Equivalency Parent/Guardian Permission of Minor Form](#) and reach out to HSE Services with any questions.

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](#)

HSE PLUS Career Readiness Pathway Update:

- You can now submit and receive approval for the HSE Plus Career Readiness Pathway Diploma entirely through the LACES database. All application materials must be uploaded in the Documents section within the Student's Profile for review.

Arizona Civics Exam:

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



Choose the HSE Diploma Pathway that is right for you:

GED® Testing Pathway



Candidate must pass four required GED® subtests:

- Reasoning Through Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Science
- Pass the *Arizona Civics Test*

HSE PLUS Career Readiness Pathway



Provided through Arizona WIOA Title II Programs.

- Requirements:
- Enroll in WIOA Title II Program
 - Earn 22 points in Academic and Career Readiness areas
 - Pass the *Arizona Civics Test*

College Credit Pathway



Provided through public community colleges or universities in Arizona.

- Requirements:
- 25 college credits in specific subject areas
 - 100+ level courses or above with grade of 'C' or higher
 - Pass the *Arizona Civics Test*

Arizona's three HSE Pathways are available to individuals who:

- Are 16 years of age or older **and**;
- Are not enrolled in secondary/high school (*or required to be enrolled*) **and**;
- Have not received a High School Diploma.

Additional state requirements:

- Candidates must pass the *Arizona Civics Test* (A.R.S. § 15-701.01)



Start your Arizona HSE Pathway today!



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
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602-258-2410

adulteds@azed.gov

azed.gov/adultedservices

Arizona WIOA Title II Adult Education Programs

Most programs have registration and classes in-person and online!

Apache County



Northland Pioneer College
928-635-4000

Cochise County



Cochise College
520-515-5456

Coconino County



Coconino Community College
928-526-7639

Gila County



Gila County Adult Education
928-402-8548

Graham and Greenlee Counties



Cochise College
520-545-5456

La Paz County



Arizona Western College
928-669-2214

Maricopa County



ACYR Adult Education Program
602-252-6721 Ext. 201



East Valley Institute of Technology
480-461-4108



Friendly House, Inc.
602-926-1820



Gilbert Adult Learning Program
480-497-3334



Literacy Phoenix
602-274-3430



FXG Adult Education Program
602-506-0055



Mesa Adult Education Program
480-472-7259



Queen Creek Adult Education Program
480-987-5988



Rio Salado College
480-377-4150

Mohave County



Mohave Community College
928-681-5634 Ext. 1934

Navajo County



Northland Pioneer College
928-289-6535

Pima County



Pima Community College
520-206-7330

Pinal County



Central Arizona College
520-494-6440



East Valley Institute of Technology
480-461-4108



Queen Creek Adult Education Program
480-987-5988

Santa Cruz County



Santa Cruz County Continuing Education
520-375-8025

Yavapai County



Yavapai College Adult Basic Education
928-776-2092

Yuma County



Adult Literacy Plus of Southwest Arizona
928-343-9363



Arizona Western College
928-669-2214



Somerton Adult Education
928-341-6714

#MoveAheadwith
ADULTED

Scan the QR code to connect with Arizona Adult Education programs and locations:

602-258-2410

adulted@azed.gov

azed.gov/adultedservices




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Arizona HSE Pathways flyer to share with your students!

[ADE HSE Pathways Flyer](#)

Teaching & Learning

AES T&L Resource of the Month



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Dave's ESL Cafe

Link:
<https://www.eslcafe.com/resources/grammar-lessons/>

<u>About the Resource</u>	<u>In the Classroom</u>	<u>T&L Team Favorite Feature</u>
<p>The ESL Cafe Grammar Lessons website offers clear explanations of key English grammar topics, including verb tenses and sentence structure. Each lesson includes examples and tips to help learners apply grammar rules in real communication. It's a practical resource for adult educators seeking quick, accessible materials to support grammar instruction.</p>	<p>This website offers sections on grammar, idioms, lesson plans, and even American slang to support adult ESL learners. In class, you could design a unit on figurative language that explores idioms, metaphors, and similes. One engaging activity is an idiom matching game where students pair phrases with their meanings. Through discussions, you can gauge their prior knowledge and compare how idioms are expressed in their native languages.</p>	<p>The clear, straightforward grammar explanations are paired with practical examples, making it easy to quickly reference a concept during class or assign it for independent study. Instructors appreciate that the lessons are concise and accessible, and that they cover common problem areas such as verb tenses and sentence structure. This approach saves time when planning lessons or addressing learner questions.</p>



Civics Week Is Here: Real-Life Skills, Real-Life Impact

National Civic Learning Week (March 9–13, 2026) is a chance to spotlight how civics builds skills that matter beyond the classroom—community participation, informed decision-making, communication, and career readiness.

In Arizona Adult Education, civics supports learners working toward improving English language skills, a HSE diploma, and workforce goals. It also connects directly to HSE success: Arizona's Civics Test passing score is now 70/100 (effective January 1, 2026).

Already happening across Arizona: civic learning partnerships and events are energizing communities statewide—showcasing how civic education can inspire engagement for learners of all ages.

Do you need quick, classroom-ready ideas and resources?

Explore the ADE Adult Education Services Teaching & Learning Glide app for grab-and-go supports: <https://aes-tandl-resources.glide.page/>

Easy ways to participate this week (adult-ed friendly):

- Add a 10-minute “Civics in Real Life” warm-up (workplace rights, local services, community issues)
- Embed Civics Test practice into reading, vocabulary, and discussion
- Collect student voice: “What change would make our community stronger?” (share-outs, letters, or short speeches)



Get ready— **America250 Arizona** is hitting the road, offering adult education programs, and our communities, a powerful way to strengthen civics education while connecting learners with Arizona’s rich past and vibrant future. Through the **Road to 250 Traveling Museum** and other statewide initiatives, learners engage in storytelling, hands-on exploration, and community-based events that deepen understanding of American history, civic identity, and **Arizona’s role in shaping the nation**.

These experiences promote real-world civics learning by helping adults explore foundational principles, reflect on their place in the American story, and build stronger civic awareness and community connection.

COABE 2026 Strand Partner

Arizona Adult Education Services is proud to serve as the **strand partner** for the **High School Equivalency** strand at this year's **COABE conference, April 12 - 14, 2026**. Registration is still open!

[COABE 2026](#)



Time for the 2026 AALL Spring Awards!



Recognize excellence, innovation, and dedication to lifelong learning by nominating individuals or groups who have made considerable contributions to adult education in Arizona. The 2026 Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) Spring Awards nominations are open through March 16, 2026.

Reminder: ADE-AES PL funds may be used for staff to <https://www.aallaz.org> participate in this conference.

[Learn More](#)



Upcoming Training and Events



Arizona Revised Statute 15-232(B)

This webinar will review the entire A.R.S 15-232(b) law regarding requirements of Adult Education and adult education programs in the state of Arizona. General information on the Eligibility and Waitlist Report will also be presented.

Select **ONE** session to attend:

Friday, March 27, 2026, 9:00a - 10:00a [Register Now](#)

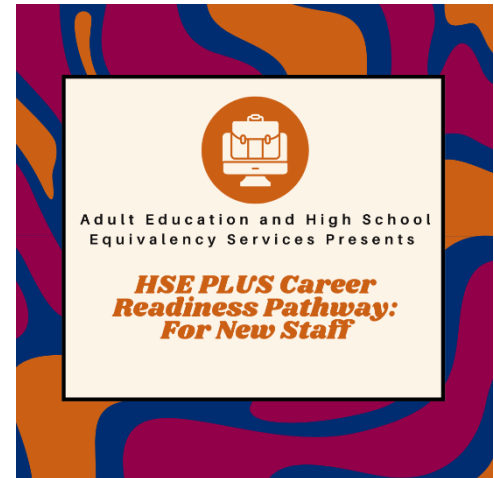
Monday, March 30, 2026, 2:00p - 3:00p [Register Now](#)

HSE Plus Career Readiness Training: For New Adult Education Staff

This webinar will provide updated guidance on the requirements and supporting documentation for the Arizona HSE Plus Career Readiness Pathway, one of the three approved pathways to earn an Arizona High School Equivalency Diploma.

Presented by JoLaunda Rodriguez and Jennifer Lombardo, ADE HSE Services.

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 11:00a - 2:00p



[Register Now](#)

TEACHING AND LEARNING WEBINAR SERIES - APRIL

Making Money Make Sense: Project-Based Financial Literacy for Adults

Presenters: Debie Chambers, Shandiin Deputee, JakinDee Kosaka, Jennifer Lane, and Nuria Sanchez



Financial literacy is an important skill for adult learners, empowering them to make informed decisions and confidently navigate real-world challenges. This training session explores how project-based learning can deepen engagement while simultaneously building critical academic skills that support long-term success. Participants will experience practical strategies for integrating meaningful, authentic financial literacy projects into adult education settings using ready-made lesson plans.

April 8 and April 22, 2026, 3:00p - 4:00p

REGISTER HERE



INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND LEARNING (IET) THAT WORKS!

Do you know what an IET is; who it is suitable for; why we have IETs; yet still struggle with how to make all of the pieces fit together? This webinar series will include:

- Best practices
- Lessons learned
- Building the perfect IET partnership
- Recruitment and retention of students
- And much more!

Program cohorts are strongly encouraged to participate.

Resister Here!

Clicking the registration link automatically registers you for the full three-part series.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
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Intro to IET: What, Why, and How

Monday, April 20, 2026
1:00p - 2:30p



Instruction that Integrates: Classroom Practices That Work

Monday, April 27, 2026
1:00p - 2:30p



Building IETs: Programs with Purpose

Monday, May 4, 2026
1:00p - 2:30p

TEACHING AND LEARNING WEBINAR SERIES - MAY

Leveraging Student Stories to Support Learning Differences

Presenter: Cynthia Peters, The Change Agent

Many of our adult learners and the people closest to them live with disabilities or learning differences. Their insights and strengths often go unacknowledged in traditional instructional materials. The Change Agent's newest three-issue collection changes that by featuring powerful, student-produced stories about navigating disability at school, at home, at work, and in the community. These authentic voices not only build connection and representation but also provide rich opportunities for teaching foundational reading, writing, and speaking/listening skills.

(All participants in May's Session will get a subscription to the Change Agent. Registration is limited)



May 6 and May 20, 2026, 3:00p - 4:00p

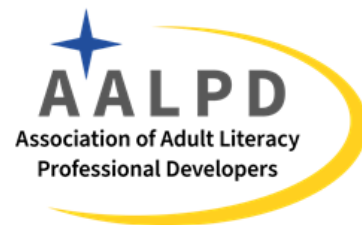
REGISTER HERE

Supporting Numeracy Professional Learning

Presenters: Heidi Schuler and Connie Rivera,
TERC/ANN

This AALPD session is presented in partnership with the Adult Numeracy Network (ANN). You'll engage in a numeracy task and then reflect on the learning to explore the question, "What does good math and numeracy PL look like?"

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 11:00a



REGISTER NOW



Standards for Professional Learning

Adult educators know why professional development matters, but knowing HOW to achieve effective PD is equally as important. Learning Forward's **Standards for Professional Learning** outline the characteristics of PL that lead to effective teaching practices, supportive leadership, and improved student results.

[Download the free guide to learn about the standards!](#)

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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