



Workforce Education Research Center

Transitioning Adult Learners to Postsecondary and Careers

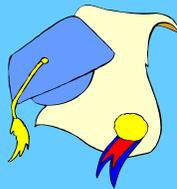
What happens to learners when they leave an adult education classroom?

Do you ever wonder about what will happen to your adult learners when they finish your program? Where will they go and what will they do? Now, more than ever, we need to help students see the completion of an adult education program as a stepping stone. Programs can help learners realize that post-secondary education or advanced training will be necessary to compete for high-wage, high growth employment sectors with opportunities for career advancement. It is important to provide learning experiences, structures and systems that address these “next step” areas for adult learners.

The following examples show what you may want to consider for your adult education program:

Postsecondary Education Path

- Offer counseling and referral services that facilitate the transition to postsecondary education. These services may include information on admissions, financial aid, prioritization, credit for prior learning, and entrance exams.
- Provide courses in college reading, writing, pre-algebra, and basic computer skills.
- Use a variety of presentation styles to model the independent approach that may be used in college. These approaches may include demonstration, discovery exercises, and student presentations.



Career Path

- Teach developmental classes in the context of learners’ lives and the job-specific skills they need for employment.
- Link learners to specific employers and work opportunities.
- Focus curriculum on work-based foundation skills.
- Maintain active links with employers and industry associations.
- Teach math in hands-on and applied fashion.

Adapted from information obtained from The Workforce Strategy Center, <http://www.workforcestrategy.org>, and *Focus on Basics, Volume 6, Issue D* from the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy.

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