



**SENATE POLICY OFFICE**  
**Questions for the Rhode Island Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education**

**Adult Education**

**February 4, 2019**

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1. **What is the Adult Education program's mission statement?**
2. **What are the program's goals?**
3. **Show us on RIDE's current organizational chart where Adult Education falls within RIDE, and to whom the director of Adult Education reports.**
  - a. When was Adult Education higher in the organizational chart than it is now, and for how long did it hold that higher position?
4. **RIDE's annual budget for Adult Education is \$6.9 million in Fiscal Year 2019.**
  - a. How does that total of \$6.9 million compare to the total amount allocated for Adult Education in Fiscal Year 2014 and in Fiscal Year 2009?
    - i. i.e., what was total Adult Education budget in RIDE in those prior fiscal years?
  - b. How much of the Adult Ed RIDE money is state money from within the RIDE budget?
    - i. And what amounts were state/RIDE money in FY 2009 and FY 2014?
  - c. How much of RIDE's current Adult Education budget is federal money?
    - i. And what amounts were federal money in FY 2009 and FY 2014?
  - d. How much of RIDE's current Adult Education budget comes from the Governor's Workforce Board?
    - i. And how much of the Adult Ed budget came from the GWB in FY 2009 and FY 2014?
  - e. And how much of RIDE's current Adult Education budget comes from the state's Job Development Fund, the tax on employers through the Unemployment Insurance program, which is intended to prepare people for jobs?
    - i. How much of the Adult Ed budget came from the Job Development Fund in FY 2009 and FY 2014?
5. How does RIDE's Adult Education program interact now with the Governor's Workforce Board?
6. During the most recent year for which you have annual data, what percent of students who completed the education they sought through Adult Ed went on to get a job if they didn't have one when entering? And how many went on to get a better job after their Adult Ed services?

7. What percent of students who entered Adult Ed completed the course they set out to take?
8. What percent of students who graduated from Adult Ed went straight on to additional, and perhaps higher, education, such as CCRI or beyond?
9. What percent of students who graduated from Adult Ed moves into a specific certificate program or apprenticeship in an industry where they hope to work?
10. Historically, what has the peak wait list been for people seeking Adult Ed services? How many are now on the wait list? And what does RIDE know about the people on the wait list in terms of their current educational attainment and the help they're seeking?
11. In Fiscal Year 2019, RIDE has told the Senate Commission that it's serving nearly 5,700 adult learners. RIDE data indicates the number of students has fluctuated over the past 12 years, with a high of 6,787 in Fiscal Year 2006 and a low of 4,927 students in Fiscal Year 2014. What causes the fluctuation? Is it what funding might be available in a given year? Or are fewer people now seeking RIDE's help through its Adult Ed program?
12. With 94 percent of students entering the Adult Ed program at less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education level, what goals do those students have when they arrive?
13. RIDE data indicates that 94 percent of the students in Adult Ed are 19 or older. Do they come into the program seeking more education so they can find a job or find a better job than they might have?
14. What percentage of people seeking Adult Ed services are ESOL learners who had degrees, credentials, and good-paying jobs in their native countries but are limited to where they can work here because their English is limited? How does the Adult Ed program help people in that situation?
15. We hear from some in the Adult Education field that they don't want to lose the educational component of Adult Ed. What percentage of students come into the program hoping to further their education with no additional hope or desire to get a job or to get a better job?
16. The RIDE data presented at the January 28 Commission meeting indicated that Rhode Island has better Adult Education outcomes than all other New England states.
  - a. What does it mean when you say that 53 percent of Rhode Island students in 2017-2018 showed EFL gains of two grade level equivalents? Are they going from a sixth-grade educational level to an eighth-grade level? And then what do they do?
  - b. When you compare your students to others across New England, do you know what percentage of Adult Ed students in other New England states arrive at their programs with less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education level [In RI: You've said that 94 percent of students here do so]?
  - c. And while 94 percent of the students in Rhode Island's Adult Ed programs are 19 or older, do you know the percentage of students in other New England states who enter their programs at 19 or older?

- d. Of the groups whom you serve through Adult Ed, what is the largest group that's unemployed and being serviced? Rank the age groups according to those that have the most unemployed to the least (i.e., ages 16-18, 19-24, 25-44, 45-54, and 55+)
17. For the latest year available, tell us how the Adult Education students met the state and federal performance outcomes you've told us that you measure:
- a. % of learners who make measurable skill gains during a program year
  - b. # of learners who earned a GED or high school equivalency credential
  - c. # of learners who earn an industry-recognized credential
  - d. # of learners who earn a digital literacy credential
  - e. # of learners who are employed two quarters after leaving the program and their median earnings
  - f. # of learners who retain employment four quarters after they leave the program
  - g. # of learners who enter postsecondary education or further training programs
18. For the latest year available, tell us the number of Adult Education students who qualified to go into an apprenticeship program after they completed their Adult Ed course of study?
19. Does RIDE have any relationship with organized labor and does it work to ensure that Adult Ed recipients meet labor requirements for entry-level and/or apprenticeship candidates?
20. What is the working relationship between DLT and RIDE today?