

Senate Adult Education Commission

RI OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER | JANUARY 14, 2019



For Rhode Island to be competitive, we need more Rhode Islanders to get education & training beyond high school.

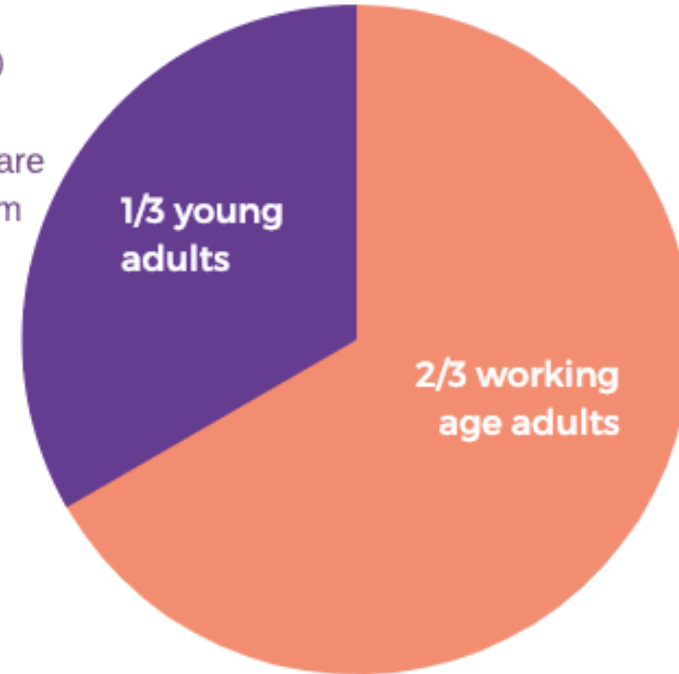
Our Priorities

- ▶ Reach 70% postsecondary attainment by 2025.
- ▶ Eliminate equity gaps in educational attainment.
- ▶ Make postsecondary education more affordable.

Adult learners are critical to the state's progress on attainment and equity.

Projections of additional degrees and credentials by age

There are 53,000 Rhode Islanders ages 18-24 who are disconnected from educational opportunity.



There are 260,000 Rhode Islanders ages 25-64 who have high school equivalent only or some college, no degree.

OPC's Commitment to Adult Students

- ▶ By next year, 70% of jobs in RI will require postsecondary education.
- ▶ We must ensure alignment between adult education and postsecondary education to increase educational pathways for adults that lead to quality postsecondary credentials.
- ▶ We have created a Director of Adult Programs & Policies position to lead the development of **policies**, **programs**, and **services** focused on the needs of adults.

Policies

- ▶ Recognition of Prior Education and Work Experience
- ▶ Military-Friendly Policies
- ▶ Student Loan Borrower Protections
- ▶ Public Benefits Access

Programs

- ▶ Higher Education and Industry Centers
 - ▶ Westerly and Northern RI
- ▶ RI-BEST Pilot and Expansion



Services

- ▶ FAFSA Campaign
- ▶ Dunamis Synergy Partnership



Adult educational attainment is foundational to Rhode Island's success.

Increased educational attainment leads to:

- ▶ Reduction in family poverty rates
- ▶ Higher wages
- ▶ Stronger labor force attachment
- ▶ Greater civic and personal responsibility

Adult students need active engagement of leadership from OPC, GWB/DLT, and RIDE.

Thank You