



# Need and Impact: Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL)

## Why is AEFL important?

**36 million** adults in the U.S. struggle with basic academic skills, making it difficult to function effectively as workers, parents, citizens and consumers in today's society. (3)

**332,246** adults in Colorado do not have a high school diploma or equivalent. **Less than 2%** received services in 2014-15. (5,6)

**275,950** adults speak English less than very well. **Less than 2%** received services in 2014-15 (5,6).

Nearly 90% of job vacancies in CO between 2008 and 2018 will require a high school credential and/or postsecondary credential. (1)

**Adult education programs are a part of a suite of supports and services individuals need to build stronger, more self-sustaining families, communities, and economies.**



## 2 Generational Effects

According to National Coalition for Literacy, focusing on educating children without also addressing their parents' needs for basic education and training will not solve the academic achievement gap. (3)

## Who is served?

**Adult learners** are individuals who do not have a high school credential, are basic skills deficient, and/or are English language learners.

## What is AEFL?

**Adult education** provides services to individuals so they have the skills necessary to obtain a secondary diploma or its equivalent, transition to postsecondary education and training, and obtain employment.

**Family literacy** provides English language services to English language learners so they can better support their children's learning needs and improve the economic prospects of their families.

**Parents with a high school diploma are 11% more likely to assist their children with homework.** (2)



Children of parents with low literacy skills have a **72%** chance of being at the **lowest reading levels themselves**. These children are **more likely** to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years, or drop out. (2)



## What impact is AEFL making?

Minimum wage workers **increased wages by 18-25%** within 18 months of exiting an adult education program. (2)

For **every dollar** invested in these services, a community gets **\$60 back** in decreased welfare costs, tax revenue, and economic activity. (4)

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week is September 26-October 1, 2016. For more information visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/aeflweek](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/aeflweek)

References:

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