

Missouri's Adult Learning Landscape

Updated 10/30/2024

- Approximately 312,000 workforce-aged adults lack a high school education in Missouri. ¹
- Adults with no diploma or equivalency are unemployed at a rate nearly three times higher than those with at least a bachelor's degree. In Missouri, adults with a diploma or equivalency earn approximately \$10,000 more a year. ²
- Missouri serves adult learners through these primary models: Adult Education & Literacy (AEL), Adult High Schools, and the Workforce Diploma program.
- Missouri has made significant efforts to increase the number of adult education participants who receive relevant workforce training alongside adult education. ³

The following table presents relevant program data, including funding, program locations, enrollment, cost per student, and cost per graduate by program. Data sources are hyperlinked.

| | Adult Education (AEL) FY24 (7/23-6/24) ⁵ | Adult High Schools FY24 (7/23-6/24) ⁴ | Workforce Diploma FY24 (7/23-6/24) ⁵ |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Guiding Legislation | 34 CFR 462 and 463 WIOA Title II, grant program | RSMO 160.270 Vendor: Mers Goodwill | RSMO 173.831 Vendor: Graduation Alliance |
| Governing Agency | US ED, DESE | DSS | DESE |
| Total Funding | \$7,803,385.27* | \$8,041,549.00 | \$1,940,000.00 |
| State Funding | \$2,553,821.55* | \$1,571,117.00 | \$1,940,000.00 |
| Locations | 150 and Online | 6 | Online only |
| Enrollment | 6,353** | 1,547 | 253 |
| Graduates | 1,359** | 254 | 101 |
| Cost per Student | \$1,228.30 | \$5,198.16 | \$7,667.98 |
| Cost per Graduate | \$5,724.01 | \$31,659.64 | \$19,207.92 |
| State Cost per Graduate | \$1,879.19 | \$6,185.50 | \$19,207.92 |

*FY24 High School Equivalency (HSE) classes only (52.5% of the total). As reported on US ED NRS Table 3, 47.5% of AEL services were provided to students not seeking HSE. ³
FY24 Total Funding \$14,863,591 X 52.5% = \$7,803,385.27 and FY24 State Funding \$4,864,422 X 52.5% = \$2,553,821.55

**HSE enrollment reported on US ED NRS Table 3, first four rows. HSE attainment reported on US ED NRS Table 4, column M. ³

Sources:

¹ [NASDAE Adult Education Program Fact Sheets \(Missouri\)](#)

² [Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Census Bureau](#)

³ [US ED National Reporting System for Adult Education](#)

⁴ [FY26 Missouri DSS Budget Request \(pages 312-319\)](#)

⁵ [FY26 Missouri DESE Budget Request \(pages 213-219\)](#)