



FACT SHEET

PAACE is a nonprofit professional education association which strives to enable diverse members to advocate for education, help adults pursue lifelong learning and represent the needs of the field by representation at the state and national level.

PAACE has over 1100 members whose programs reach 65,000 adult learners in the Commonwealth.

PAACE member programs include: adult basic and secondary education, English as a second language, continuing higher education, family literacy education, literacy tutoring, corrections education and workforce development.

- Nearly 50% of adults in Pennsylvania need literacy skills to be effective workers, parents, and citizens.
- State and federal funds for Adult Basic and Literacy Education only reach about 53,000 Pennsylvanians, or 1.5% of the population in need.
- Jobs are becoming increasingly information sensitive. More than 50% of all new jobs will require some post-secondary education.
- The American Medical Association estimates that \$74 billion in annual health care costs is attributable to the effects of under-education and limited proficiency in English. For example, parents are not always able to read or understand prescription instructions for themselves and their children.
- According to the 2000 census, 1 in 10 residents is an immigrant. PAACE supports increased state and federal support for the expansion of ESL classes.
- A literate workforce makes Pennsylvania more competitive economically.
- Low literacy skills contribute to chronic unemployment, low productivity, workplace and medical accidents, and feelings of isolation and low self-esteem.
- Parents who can read and write raise children who can read and write.