

Adult Education Strengthens Michigan's Workforce

Michigan cannot meet employer talent needs without strengthening adult education access and capacity.

The Need in Michigan



506,376

Working-Age Adults
(18-24) Without a High
School Diploma

(Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity, 2025)



230,000+

Need English Language
Instruction

(Michigan League for Public Policy, 2019)



30,000+

Enrolled in Adult
Education

(American Society of Employers, 2025)



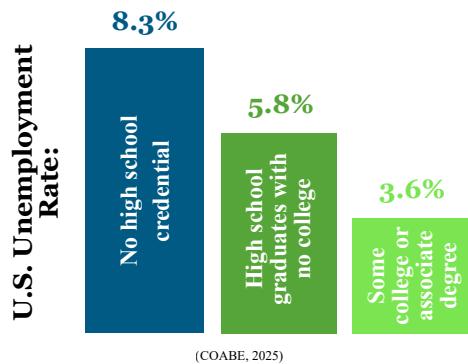
+24%

Enrollment Growth in
the Last 2 Years

(Dekker, 2025)

Hundreds of thousands of Michiganders lack foundational skills needed for good jobs.

Education Drives Workforce Participation



By 2031, 4.7 million jobs in the U.S. will require a high school diploma, compared to only 1.3 million jobs for those without one—highlighting the growing need for adult education and credential attainment (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024).



Economic Return for Individuals

+\$7,600/year

Michiganders with a high school credential can earn up to \$7,600 more per year than those without one.

+\$24,500/year

Those who continue to earn a two-year degree can earn an additional \$24,500 per year above those without a degree.

MACAE Legislative Priorities

(Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity, 2025)



Restore Section 107 funding to \$40.5 million to ensure stable, effective programs, and continued access for Michigan's adult learners. Section 107 of the School Aid Budget provides dedicated funding for instruction, staffing, technology, and professional development across the adult education system.



Invest \$2 million into the Adult Literacy Opportunity Fund (ALOF) to support Michigan's least literate individuals.



Investing in Adult Education:

- Expands opportunities for Michigan workers
- Reduces unemployment
- Provides skilled talent to employers
- Grows the middle class
- Supports Michigan's "Sixty by 30" goal
- Reduces recidivism



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