



ADDENDUM

Review of Adult Education Programs

Region 2

**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education
Adult and Community Learning Services**

February 2021

The **ADDENDUM Review of Adult Education Programs** in Region 2 is a part of the on-going implementation of the Regional Planning strategies and goals codified in the **Pioneer Valley Labor Market Blueprint- 2018-2022**, and the **Updated Blueprint (September 2020)** produced by the MassHire Workforce Boards of Hampden and Franklin Hampshire Counties.

The ADDENDUM Review was produced by the Adult Education programs in Region 2, with the guidance and support of Maura Geary, Director of Workforce Services, MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, and Judith Roberts, Executive Director, The Literacy Project.

The MassHire Workforce Boards currently receive funding to support their Regional Planning work from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD).

OVERVIEW

The **ADDENDUM *Review of the Adult Education Programs*** in Region 2 (Hampden and Franklin Hampshire Counties) that are funded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Adult and Community Learning Services (DESE/ACLS) is part of the implementation of the Goals and Strategies contained in the [*Pioneer Valley Labor Market Blueprint-2018-2022*](#), and the [*Updated Blueprint*](#) (September 2020).

The Review provides **Capacity Data** on the Adult Education programs in Region 2, and is a critical part of our regional collaborative work to strengthen the infrastructure and capacity of the Adult Education programs to continue to provide high quality educational programs, career pathway guidance, and an array of services and supports to ensure program completion and a successful transition to college and career opportunities.

The **Observations** in the ADDENDUM summarize the data points, share programmatic and operational similarities of the regional AE programs, identify specialized programs that target selected learner populations, and provide guidance to the AE programs to support their programs and activities to ensure personal and career success for their learners

The Review provides program operators and practitioners with opportunities for collaborative dialogue and decision-making that results in the development and implementation of innovative programming moving forward.

The **Addendum Review** can be viewed on the websites of the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board at <https://www.masshirefhw.org/.org/> and the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board Inc. at <http://masshirehwb.com/>.



Review of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Adult and Community Learning Services Adult Education Programs Region 2

I. INTRODUCTION

The MassHire Hampden and Franklin Hampshire Workforce Boards, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet which consists of the MA Secretaries of Housing and Economic Development, Labor and Workforce Development, and Education, are leading a five-year Pioneer Valley Regional Planning process which began in April 2017 and resulted in the June 2018 publication of the *Pioneer Valley Labor Market Blueprint- 2018-2022* (“Blueprint”).

As part of implementing the Goals and Strategies in the Blueprint, the workforce boards constituted an **Educator Work Group** that worked with Springfield Technical Community College (STCC), Holyoke Community College (HCC), Greenfield Community College (GCC), Westfield State University, and the region’s vocational technical high schools to identify the current technical programs and courses of study, both credit and non-credit, offered at the community colleges and technical high school, to ascertain their association with the priority and other critical industries and occupational groupings identified in the Pioneer Valley Labor Market Blueprint.

II. BACKGROUND

In October 2019, the Educator Work Group produced the *Summary of the Technical Programs Conducted at the Community Colleges, Vocational Technical High Schools and Westfield State University*. This Report analyzed the programs and courses offered at the respective educational institutions and their alignment with the priority occupational groupings in the priority and other critical industries codified in the Blueprint.

In March 2020, the Educator Work Group produced the ***Addendum to Summary of Technical Programs at the Regional Community Colleges and Westfield State University: Program Enrollment and Enrollment vs. Program Capacity*** as a follow-up to the work tasks and deliverables in the **Summary Report**. The Addendum focused on Enrollment and Enrollment Vs. Program Capacity exclusively in the programs at the regional community colleges and Westfield State University associated with the occupational groupings in the three **priority industries**.

In October 2020, the Educator Work Group produced the ***Addendum- Review of Non-Credit Career Courses at the Community Colleges Related to the Healthcare and Social Assistance Industry***. The ADDENDUM Report provides guidance in future decision making, and is an on-going part of our regional collaborative work to ensure the alignment of educational and career pathway programs and courses with the current and future workforce needs and requirements of business and industry.

III. NEW ADDENDUM

This new Addendum is focused on the program capacity of Adult Education (AE) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs in Region 2 (Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties) that are currently funded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Adult and Community Learning Services (DESE/ACLS).

The MA Workforce Skills Cabinet and the Pioneer Valley Region seek to simultaneously advance the education and career goals of AE students, and see the value in doing so for both students and employers. The intent of this initial review of the AE data is to determine the following:

1. Name and Location of Region 2 Adult Education Training Providers
2. Region 2 Seat Capacity
3. Training Schedules as Points of Access for Learners
4. Employment Status and Goals of the Enrolled Learner

The **Observations** in the ADDENDUM are intended solely to summarize the data points, share programmatic and operational similarities of the regional AE programs, identify specialized programs that target selected learner populations, and position the Educator Work Group to provide guidance to the AE programs to support their programs and activities to ensure personal and career success for their learners.

The following two charts summarize the FY 2021 ACLS funded Adult Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages programs in Region 2 (Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin Counties).

Adult Education Programs	Adult Education Program Capacity				Employment Status Reported FY19		
Training Provider	ABE Seats	Hrs./Wk.	ESOL Seats	Hrs./Wk.	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Hampden County							
Springfield Technical Comm. College	155		96				
Holyoke Comm. College (Juntos)	110		71				
Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center			107				
Valley Opportunity Council	62		91				
Training Resources America	30		39				
Springfield							
STCC (Day)	78	16					
STCC (Eve)	77	9					
STCC/SHA (Day)	12	16					
STCC/HCC (Day)			48	10.5			
STCC/HCC (Eve)			48	9			
TOTAL: STCC/HCC/SHA	155		96		47%	45%	8%
STCC Adult Ed					45%	43%	12%
STCC ESOL					50%	47%	3%
Training Resources Amer.	30		39		46%	44%	9%
Sub-Total	185		135				
Chicopee							
Valley Opportunity Council (Day)	48		22				
Valley Opportunity Council (Eve)	14		69				
Sub-Total	62		91		44%	45%	11%
Holyoke							
HCC /Juntos Collaborative:	110		71		38%	42%	21%
HPS Opportunity Academy (Day)	39				37%	46%	17%
Community Education Project			71		37%	43%	19%
HCC/ALC (Eve)	41				62%	32%	6%
Care Center	30				7%	13%	80%
Sub-Total	110		71				
Ludlow							
HCC/LAALC (Day)			58	7-8			

HCC/LAALC (Eve)			49	9				
Sub-Total			107			37%	51%	11%
TOTAL	357		404	761				

Adult Education Programs	Adult Education Program Capacity				Employment Status Reported FY19		
	ABE Seats	Hrs./Wk.	ESOL Seats	Hrs./Wk.	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Hampshire/Franklin County							
The Literacy Project	149				32%	45%	24%
Center for New Americans			165	8	33%	32%	35%
International Language Institute			72	6	69%	21%	10%
Northampton							
Literacy Project (Day)	31	24					
Center for New Americans (Day)			45	8			
Center for New Americans (Eve)							
Total: Center for New Americans							
Intl Language Institute (Eve)			72	6			
Sub-Total							
Greenfield							
Literacy Project (Day)	31	25					
Center for New Americans (Day)			30	8			
Center for New Americans (Eve)							
Total: Center for New Americans							
Sub-Total							
Amherst							
Literacy Project (Day)	31	24					
Center for New Americans (Day)			55	8			
Center for New Americans (Eve)							
Total: Center for New Americans							
Sub-Total							
Other – Distance Learning			35	5			
Orange							

Literacy Project (Day)	24	22						
Ware								
Literacy Project (Day)	32	31						
TOTAL	149			237	386			

IV. OBSERVATIONS

1. There is a 761 Seat Capacity in the Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) funded Adult Education (AE) programs in Hampden County. 357 seats are allocated for Adult Basic Education, and 404 seats are allocated to providing English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
2. There is a 386 Seat Capacity in the Adult and Community Learning Services funded Adult Education programs in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. 149 seats are allocated for Adult Basic Education, and 237 seats are allocated to providing English to Speakers of Other Languages.
3. The 1,147 Seat Capacity in Region 2 has an approximate turnover rate of 1.3 resulting in an annual service level to 1,491 individual learners.
4. There are five (5) educational institutions/organizations (Service Providers) funded by ACLS to conduct adult education programs in Hampden County:
 - Springfield Technical Community College
 - Holyoke Community College (Juntos Collaborative)
 - Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center (Holyoke Community College)
 - Valley Opportunity Center
 - Training Resources of America
5. There are three (3) organizations (Service Providers) funded by ACLS to conduct adult education programs in Hampshire and Franklin Counties :
 - The Literacy Project
 - Center for New Americans
 - International Language Institute

6. Holyoke, Springfield, and Greenfield Community Colleges offer ACLS funded Transition to College programs for students who have completed high school or Adult Education programs, but are in need of further academic, career, and other support in order to be successful in college.
7. The Care Center, a program funded as a part of the Holyoke Community College administered Juntos Collaborative, specifically offers programs and services to young mothers and low-income women.
8. The Opportunity Academy, a program of the Holyoke Public Schools, and funded in part through ACLS funding contracted to Holyoke Community College, is a set of alternative high school pathways that allow students to continue or restart on a pathway to obtaining a high school diploma.
9. Holyoke Community College offers ACLS funded integrated ESOL Career Pathway Programs in Culinary and Nursing Assistant with a current total of 64 funded seats.
10. Adult Education programs are intentionally conducted on varying schedules that are conducive to the life cycle patterns of the enrolled learners.
11. Significant percentages of the learners' enrolled in the AE programs are employed on a full time or part time basis.
12. All AE programs employ a Career Advisor who is responsible for providing educational and career pathway guidance, services, and supports to the enrolled learners.
13. All AE programs have an integrated and coordinated connection to the MassHire One Stop Career Centers in their respective regions for the provision of job training, job matching, and career information services.
14. Adult Education service providers implement programs and services that integrate and connect program learners with work-based learning experiences, including occupational training, internships, and job shadowing.
15. Each AE program has the capacity and infrastructure to deliver instruction in virtual modalities using appropriate educational software and technology platforms.
16. Each AE program utilizes a myriad of instructional methodologies to deliver instruction to a wide range of learners with different learning styles and capabilities.

