

Adult Education has a rich 150-year history in our region, but until now has still been considered the “best-kept secret.”



PATHWAYS FOR EVERYONE

Learn how these low- and no-cost programs are life-changing for individual Californians and their families, but may also be the economic engine for the entire state.



Bay Area
Regional California
Adult Education
Programs



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB HARPER

THE LONG HISTORY— AND IMPORTANT FUTURE—OF ADULT EDUCATION

How programs that have quietly been helping Californians since 1856 may be the answer to recovering from 2020

BY THEA MARIE ROOD

It's hard to believe that adult education has been around for 150 years, but so many people don't fully understand what it is, what it does or what impact it could have on our state as a whole.

"Our students are the most marginalized, the least able to navigate employment and employment training," says Bob Harper, the recently retired executive director of the South Bay Consortium for Adult Education. "Those segments of the population are also the ones hit first, hit hardest and take the longest time to recover in an economic downturn. But they are the natural constituency of the adult education system. Our delivery system is the most connected to the most vulnerable."

As a result, Harper spent his decades in adult ed focused on reaching out to and serving those students, and believes it is even more crucial now.

"To acknowledge (our students have) barriers does not mean they have a lack of capacity," he says. "Take U.S. immigrants, for example—who had the ability to leave circumstances, the place where they were born. That alone tells about their human capacity. And often immigrants have incredible skill sets but they are under- or unemployed: Someone with a graduate degree in electrical engineering (from their own country) is washing dishes here. Unless they are supported and funded, that capacity will be lost...at a time when we need it the most."

In addition to providing language and cultural competency to students from other countries, adult education also is uniquely designed to help those who lack a high school diploma or are involved in the criminal justice system, all of whom are frequently "employed for survival rather than a career," according to Harper.

"We can help them re-create who they are, (gain or regain) an entrepreneurial spirit," he says. "Our adult learners are seen

as a whole human...and we help them get what they need."

For many, that includes access to and training in technology. "So much of literacy now takes place in a digital environment," Harper explains. "It's a requisite to training and working in a modern workplace. It also has an incredible impact on kids. The

"To acknowledge (our students have) barriers does not mean they have a lack of capacity. Unless they are supported and funded, that capacity will be lost...at a time when we need it the most."

Bob Harper
Former executive director of Adult Education,
South Bay Consortium for Adult Education

number one correlation of a child's success in the first three years of school is the mother's literacy—more than any economic or social factors. And that now includes digital literacy."

To learn more about the history of adult education in California, visit caadultedhistory.org. To learn more about the South Bay Consortium for Adult Education programs, visit www.sbcae.org.



WHY WE NEED ADULT EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

Number of people who aren't
high school graduates:

4,702,104

*Number who aren't employed:

1,557,681

Number who are in poverty:

2,624,531

Number who are illiterate:

2,976,145

Number who need to learn English:

3,473,458

Number who have a 7th grade education:

2,030,579

* The impact of COVID-19 has pushed this
2010 figure to 2.172 million.

From the 2010 U.S. Census

START HERE!



STEP 1: Decision to pursue your education

Student gets motivated due to having an immediate need (i.e. need to put food on the table, get a better job, learn English, go back and get their diploma, etc.) and/or is referred by another local/regional program.

STEP 2: Find a local adult education provider / no wrong door

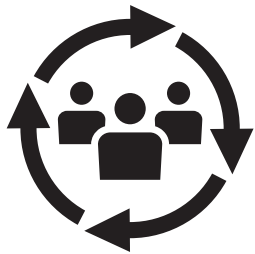
Reasons why adult students pick their school:

- Based on word of mouth
- Was a referral from another program
- Saw an advertisement/saw it via social media
- School had proven success
- School was close by
- Track record of quick student acceleration toward goal
- Their kids went there
- Flexible schedule
- No cost



STEP 3: Create your plan, develop your goals

Student is assessed, goals are discussed, student talks to a counselor, education plan is created, a personalized pathway to goals is created, or student is referred to another adult education provider in the region based on their plan (and who can meet their needs).



STEP 6: Transition to reach your goal

- Transition from English Second Language or Adult Basic Ed to Adult Secondary Education
- Transition from ESL/ABE/ASE to Career Technical Education



STEP 5: Make progress

- Achieve student progress (measurable skills gains)
- Awarded a short term certificate, diploma, or high school equivalency
- Complete a workforce preparation milestone
- Complete training to help individuals better access their community

STEP 4: Pick a program(s), follow your path

Possible course offerings:

- High School Diploma/High School Equivalency
- Adult Basic Education/Literacy
- English Second Language/Civics/Immigrant Integration/Citizenship
- K-12 Success (adults helping elementary & secondary students succeed)
- Adults with Disabilities (living skills, learning skills for adults)
- Career Technical Education – Short Term Vocational, Workforce Preparation, and
- Pre-apprenticeship



STEP 7: SUCCESS!

- Living Wage / In Demand Jobs
- Transition to Post Secondary credit coursework for AA degree, Certificate

ADULT EDUCATION STUDENT JOURNEY

Network of Adult Education Providers:

- K-12 adult school programs
- County Office of Education programs
- Regional Occupational programs
- Jail Education programs
- Community College noncredit programs

Network of Adult Education Partners:

- Workforce Boards and One Stops
- Employers
- County Social Services
- Library literacy programs
- Community-based organizations
- Nonprofits
- Faith-based organizations

Consuelo Contreras earned her high school diploma and an ESL certificate at the Campbell Adult and Community Education Program.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CONSUELO CONTRERAS



REMOVING BARRIERS

ESL program helps immigrants learn English and find paths to success

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

The Bay Area is one of the most diverse regions of California. It's home to many non-English speakers who often find the challenge of a foreign language an obstacle to employment and the overall goal of improving their lives.

As so many immigrants have discovered, adult education can be the pathway to personal fulfillment and a more secure future. Consuelo Contreras of Santa Clara discovered that first-hand after she and her mother emigrated from Mexico City in 2015.

Soon after arriving, Contreras, now 22, enrolled as a senior at Prospect High School in Saratoga.

"My first language is Spanish, but to graduate I needed to be able to write and read in English," she recalls. "After six months, I was told they couldn't give me the credits I needed to graduate because language was still a barrier."

Contreras was referred to the Campbell Adult and Community Education (CACE) program, where she graduated from its English as a second language (ESL) program and earned her high school diploma.

"I wanted to learn English to communicate with people, so I took a really big step," she says. "Getting my ESL certificate and high school diploma really helped because I needed to work and (those credentials) opened doors for me."

Contreras found more than academic help at CACE, she says. "I found people who became my family, who helped me when I wasn't able to stand up for myself."

CACE partners with the local Workforce Development Board (www.work2future.org), whose mission is to prepare

job-seekers for employment by offering skills-building workshops, certificate training and much more.

Contreras is now a freshman at San Jose City College, taking remote classes and building a foundation for a future career in social work. When she first enrolled, CACE helped her find an outside math tutor, free of charge. "They were very flexible with my work and school schedules," she says.

At the same time, she works as a medical technician at an assisted-living center. "I can go to college in the mornings and afternoons while still working full-time," she says. Contreras plans to transfer to San Jose State University after graduation.

"As an immigrant, I understand the difficulties people go

"I found people who became my family, who helped me when I wasn't able to stand up for myself."

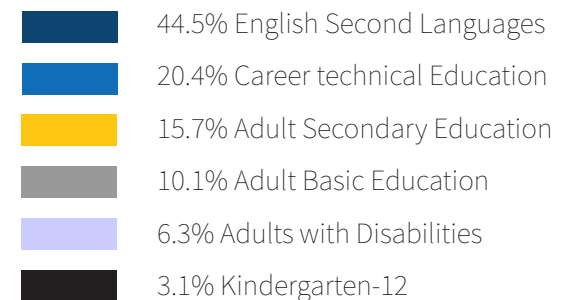
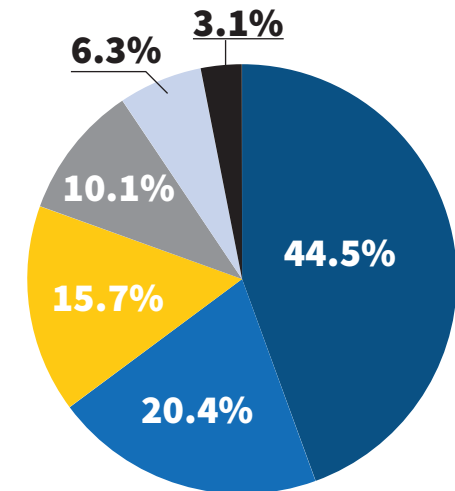
Consuelo Contreras
CACE graduate

through," she says. "I was a 17-year-old girl with dreams and aspirations when I came here, and CACE helped me fulfill both."

Learn more about Campbell Adult and Community Education at cace.cuhsd.org.

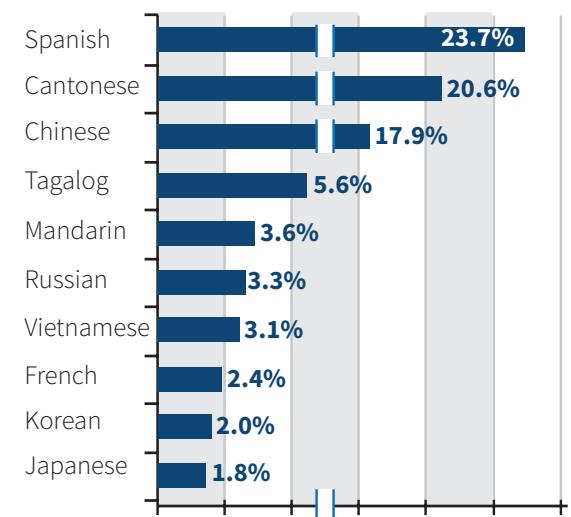
LANGUAGE ABILITY

BAY AREA ADULT EDUCATION ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN



From the Chancellor's Office Adult Education Pipeline on LaunchBoard

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME IN BAY AREA



Source: California Adult Education 2019 Fact Sheets

Bailey Windus turned his life around with the help of Petaluma Adult School.
PHOTO COURTESY OF BAILEY WINDUS

EARNING A DIPLOMA CHANGES EVERYTHING

Adult school can get students back on track to a brighter future

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Adult school can get students back on track to a brighter future. Adult education helps build California’s future by helping students from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and situations overcome the barriers that have prevented them from getting an education and learning new skills.

Bailey Windus, 21, certainly found a second chance through adult education.

He was a high school senior in Santa Rosa when he was faced with obstacles that led him to drop out of school. “I’ve always loved school, but as soon as everything came down on top of me, it was difficult to even get out of bed in the morning, let alone even care about my education,” he says.

Windus ended up sleeping in his car and became estranged from his family and friends. Then one morning, he literally looked in the mirror and said, “I’ve got to change, I need to go back to school.”

No one in his family has a high school diploma, so “I wanted to make sure I had something to show for myself and

“Our choices are the one thing we truly have control over in life. Making the right choices can lead to happiness, love and success.”

Bailey Windus
PAS graduate

actually get a diploma,” he says.

Windus enrolled in the Petaluma Adult School (PAS) and, six months later, graduated with his diploma, which he calls “a rite of passage that affects who you are as a person.”

Windus calls his PAS experience “amazing. I felt like I belonged, that it mattered that I went to class. The instructors helped us finish what we had started in high school. It was a confidence-booster.”



Windus was at the top of his graduating class at PAS and was asked to speak at the graduation ceremony. In part, he said, “Our choices are the one thing we truly have control over in life. Making the right choices can lead to happiness, love and success. Everyone makes mistakes that we consider failures, but it’s important that you not let these define you, but take them as lessons.”

Two weeks after graduation, Windus enrolled in Santa Rosa Junior College. With plans of becoming a child psychologist, he’s a sophomore with a double major in psychology and sociology. Not surprisingly, he carries a 4.0 GPA.

What would he say to others thinking about enrolling in adult education?

“Stick it through and it will get better. You can’t change anybody else, but you can change yourself.”

Editor’s note: Shortly before this publication was printed, Bailey Windus tragically died in a traffic accident. In death, he continues to be an inspiration to others.

Learn more about Petaluma Adult School at www.petalumacityschools.org/petalumaadultschool.

ADULT EDUCATION ENROLLMENT AND LEVEL GAINS

EAST BAY

| Data Points | 16-17 | 17-18 | 18-19 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Enrollment | 48,815 | 49,097 | 42,768 |
| Level Gains | 29% | 40% | 40% |

SAN FRANCISCO/PENINSULA

| Data Points | 16-17 | 17-18 | 18-19 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Enrollment | 48,950 | 49,322 | 42,111 |
| Level Gains | 40% | 46% | 49% |

NORTH BAY

| Data Points | 16-17 | 17-18 | 18-19 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Enrollment | 25,877 | 29,137 | 30,864 |
| Level Gains | 27% | 30% | 31% |

SILICON VALLEY

| Data Points | 16-17 | 17-18 | 18-19 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Enrollment | 34,753 | 36,504 | 33,873 |
| Level Gains | 31% | 37% | 36% |

The Chancellor’s Office Adult Education Pipeline on Launchboard /Studies find that increasing English proficiency by one level raises earnings by over 30%, Immigrant Integration in the United States: The Role of Adult English Language Training, Harvard University, November 2020.

LEARNING NEW SKILLS AT ANY AGE

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

After graduation, she became an inspiration to others

In some way or another, we all want to improve ourselves in order to find opportunities that will better our lives. No-cost/low-cost adult education is one way to do just that. In a practical sense, it's a gateway to newfound freedoms.

That's what Maria Vela discovered after coming to the U.S. from Michoacán, Mexico, 17 years ago.

"I didn't have the opportunity to go to school in Mexico, I barely finished 10th grade," says Vella, 36, of Santa Rosa. "I really wanted to get educated, and I knew I could do it here."

Vela spoke no English and the obstacles over the years were many. Her last job was as a machine operator at a medical device company, where she worked for 10 years. Then came a revelation.

"Someone there was asking me (job-related) questions in English, and I had no clue about what he was saying," she remembers. "At that moment, it finally hit me: 'I've got to take classes and learn English.'"

Vela enrolled in the adult education program at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), attending evening classes while working full-time during the day. Eventually, she graduated from the school's English as a Second Language program, then earned a high school equivalency certificate. She then entered the Career Education Department to secure two certificates in computer technology.

"I'd met all the people in the adult education department and told them I was interested in working with them, and they offered me a job a year ago," she says. "This is the job I was always looking forward to, and I love it."

Vela started as a teaching assistant, but her duties have grown to include scheduling and administering exams. "Without adult education, I wouldn't be doing this," she says. "My next goal is to get a college degree."

Coaching SRJC's adult students comes naturally to Vela. "I want to help them in return for the help I received," she says. "I love working with them because I understand their situations."

As someone who has "been there and done that," Vela's credibility and guidance help the students find footing.

"Every time I talk with them I say, 'No matter how old you are, you can get educated. Never say you can't, because you can.'"

Vela says that inspiring younger students is especially gratifying. "I tell them, you can do this, you just have to find the opportunities because they're not going to come to your house. You have to pursue your dreams."

Learn more about adult education programs at Santa Rosa Junior College at www.santarosa.edu.

Never say you can't, because you can."

Maria Vela
SRJC adult education program graduate and now SRJC employee



INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK

When students learn English, become a citizen or complete academic milestones, they become more involved in all aspects of their community.



Candy Torres is proud of her hard-earned academic success.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CANDY TORRES

THE VALUE OF AN EDUCATION

Adult school graduate shares her love of learning with others

BY ANNE STOKES

Candy Torres is passionate about learning. As the first in her immediate family to go to college, she knows getting an education can be life changing. Today, she's training to become a teacher so she can offer those opportunities to others.

"There are a lot of things that have happened to me in my life and I feel I have to share that experience with children. I feel I have to teach others what I know," she says. "I won't be just a teacher, I would be *the* teacher who helped a child become successful in their life."

Torres grew up in East Palo Alto until the age of 12, when her family moved back to Mexico. There, she attended middle school, but dropped out of high school to help support her family. A U.S. citizen, she returned in 2013 and worked customer service and cleaning jobs, but wanted to build a better life for herself. In 2016, she enrolled at Campbell Adult and Community Education (CACE) to earn her high school diploma.

At first, she was intimidated about starting school again, but found a very supportive environment at CACE. She says teachers were always available to help and she had access to bilingual tutors who could help her expand her English skills as well as complete her basic adult education.

In the middle of Torres earning her high school diploma, her daughter was born and Torres had to put her education on hiatus. When she returned, teachers were able to provide accommodations and enabled her to do coursework online. Not only were teachers and staff able to support her academically, they encouraged her emotionally as well.

"(My counselor) would give me a lot of good advice and motivation. She would look me in the eye and say she believed



in me and that I was going to graduate," Torres remembers. "I told her I wanted to come back to school, but I didn't know if I was going to be able to because I had to care for my daughter.

"I won't be just a teacher, I would be the teacher who helped a child become successful in their life."

Candy Torres
CACE graduate and West Valley College student

She said, 'Don't worry, you can come back to it whenever you're ready.' ... My daughter turned one when I was able to continue my education at CACE, even though it was in a different way."

In 2019, Torres earned her high school diploma, but didn't stop there. She's currently studying early childhood education at West Valley College and is on track to earn her certificate of achievement in 2022. From there, she hopes to transfer to San Jose State University to earn a bachelor's degree and ultimately pursue a master's degree in education.

"I'm passionate about what I'm doing," she says. "I'm happy doing what I'm doing because I'm setting an example for my daughter ... (and) this will help her understand that education is important."

Learn more about Campbell Adult and Community Education at cace.cuhisd.org.

SUPPLYING WORKERS FOR A THRIVING ECONOMY

Encompassing nine counties thriving with thousands of established and upcoming new businesses—from software to construction—the Bay Area offers a wealth of opportunities to the graduates of adult education schools.

By offering flexible schedules for a menu of hands-on programs, adult ed lifts students to the next level to connect with their reconfigured futures.

"Employment has been really high in our area for the past three years," says Usha Narayanan, director of Campbell Adult and Community Education.

"We match some of our labor market information to the kinds of training we provide our students, and unlock the gates to the skills they need to advance in the marketplace. As soon as our students gain those skills, they find employment or transition to a college."

She adds: "One measure of success is workers who contribute to the community and state and federal governments. We enable our students to be propelled into the economy."

MANUFACTURING/CONSTRUCTION JOBS IN THE TOP 10 FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS:



Electrical Power Line Installers and Repairers

- Total 2017 jobs: 7,250
- Total 2027 jobs: 9,263
- Median hourly wages: \$57.12
- Median annual wages: \$118,811



Solar Photovoltaic Installers

- Total 2017 jobs: 4,224
- Total 2027 jobs: 8,286
- Median hourly wages: \$26.49
- Median annual wages: \$55,109



Pipelayers, Steamfitters and Plumbers

- Total 2017 jobs: 3,026
- Total 2027 jobs: 4,411
- Median hourly wages: \$25.29
- Median annual wages: \$52,601

Dr. Cesar Pillar recently accepted a position at Stanford University.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. CESAR PADILLA

A SECOND CHANCE

Adult school opportunities give a hand up to students who need it

BY ANNE STOKES

Cesar Padilla is an embodiment of the American dream and he credits Fremont Adult School for helping make that dream come true. At 15, he nearly dropped out of high school and was considering a career as a grocery store cashier. Today, he's Dr. Cesar Padilla, a medical director of maternal critical care and a nationally recognized leader in his field.

The son of immigrants, Padilla grew up in Decoto, a Bay Area neighborhood unfortunately known for its drug and gang violence problems. Padilla felt neither safe nor supported at high school and by his sophomore year, he had a 0.67 GPA.

Having failed so many classes, a guidance counselor told him he wouldn't graduate on time. Recognizing his son needed more than what staff and faculty could give, his father, Leopoldo Padilla, enrolled Cesar at Fremont Adult School. Throughout his junior year, Padilla attended adult and high school — which put him in class from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day — to make up credits.

"There was a genuine feeling of acceptance. ... It was like, 'It's OK that you failed. We know that and we're not here to talk about how that defines you,'" he says. "That was the beginning of a psychological switch. ... It was like I could see the light at the end of the tunnel, which was a high school diploma."

Padilla graduated on time with nearly a 3.0 GPA. He continued on to Ohlone College, initially to become an emergency medical technician. Instead, counselor Maria Ramirez suggested a four-year university pathway and encouraged him to consider pre-med.

"The first semester I was [at Ohlone], I had a friend who was killed. I started realizing that school was actually more

than school for me, it was a way out," he says. "I sit here today and think about the kids who were killed and who were in prison, because those were some of the smartest kids I knew. ... What if my friend had a shot? What if my friend's dad wasn't in prison and took *him* to adult school?"

Padilla ended up matriculating to the University of San Francisco and attending medical school in New York. He completed his residency in Los Angeles, two fellowships at Harvard's Brigham and Woman's Hospital and recently

accepted a position at Stanford University.

"I can easily look at my diplomas and say, 'I have two Harvard Medical School diplomas,' but ... what they should say is 'Fremont Adult School,' he says. "They picked me up, didn't let me fail and they believed in me."

Learn more about Fremont Adult and Continuing Education at www.face.edu.



HEALTH CARE CAREER GROWTH

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care field is projected to grow 15% in the next decade and add 2.4 million new jobs—more than any other occupational group. Some of the top fastest growing health care occupations include:



Nursing assistant

- 2017: 103,345
- 2027: 131,054 (27% growth)
- Median hourly wages: \$22.39
- Median annual wages: \$46,578



Home health aide

- 2017: 31,461
- 2027: 37,329 (19% growth)
- Median hourly wages: \$14.99
- Median annual wages: \$31,175



Physical therapist assistant

- 2017: 5,114
- 2027: 7,710 (51% growth)
- Median hourly wages: \$38.49
- Median annual wages: \$80,063



Occupational therapy assistant

- 2017: 1,955
- 2027: 3,209 (64% growth)
- Median hourly wages: \$40.30
- Median annual wages: \$83,832



Health technologists and technicians

- 2017: 24,221
- 2027: 33,231 (37% growth)
- Median hourly wages: \$37.56
- Median annual wages: \$78,130

A HEAD FOR BUSINESS

Adult education programs give entrepreneurs a good business foundation

BY ANNE STOKES

Not everyone is born with business acumen, but anyone can learn what it takes to become an entrepreneur through adult education programs.

“They provide them with the foundational skills that they need ... that would apply to any type of business,” says Andrea Murphy, program coordinator for Mt. Diablo Adult Education’s Career and Technical Education Center. “There’s the flexibility to just take a couple of individual classes — if that’s all they need — and then also to be able to learn some of the soft skills ... that will be central to working in your own business, all in under a year, so it’s short term and at an affordable cost.”

Hard and soft business skills

Adult education programs teach students how to handle both the technical skills required to run their own business — such as computer skills, marketing and accounting — but also the soft skills needed for customer service and other professional communications.

Flexibility

Whether you’re looking to upgrade a few skills or earn a business development certificate, adult education courses can be tailored to fit your needs.

“It may not be necessary for somebody to take a full certificate program ... (so) they have those options as well to take those individual courses,” Murphy says. “A lot of the skills they learn are transferable to many different industries and large or small offices.”

Even before COVID-19 forced schools to move classes online, adult education programs were already known for flexible evening class schedules. Murphy notes that even after pandemic restrictions are safely lifted, online instruction will most likely continue as it allows better access for more students.

“(Students) are balancing and juggling a lot ... and some things are going to continue to at least be in a hybrid format,” she says. “That’s important for us to consider in the future and I have a feeling that will continue to make our programs and our

scheduling even more flexible for students as we go forward.”

Affordability

Adult education can save both time and money. As programs are not for profit, tuition is considerably less than public and private colleges. And while college programs can take years to complete, most adult education programs can get students ready to work in less than a year.

“A lot of the skills they learn are transferable to many different industries and large or small offices.”

Andrea Murphy
Program coordinator, Mt. Diablo Adult Education Career and Technical Education Center

Whether it’s starting a business or going to work for one, adult education programs enable students to take whatever career path is right for them.

“(The goal) is to make it as easy as possible for them to be successful and get the skills they need to achieve their goals,” Murphy says.

Learn more about Mt. Diablo Adult Education at <https://mdaed-mdusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>.

IT PAYS TO KNOW

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, getting an education pays off: Not only do higher levels of education usually result in higher earnings, they also correlate to lower rates of unemployment.



Master’s degree

- Median usual weekly earnings: \$1,497
- Unemployment rate: 2%



Bachelor’s degree

- Median usual weekly earnings: \$1,248
- Unemployment rate: 2.2%



Associate’s degree

- Median usual weekly earnings: \$887
- Unemployment rate: 2.7%



Some college (no degree)

- Median usual weekly earnings: \$883
- Unemployment rate: 3.3%



High school diploma

- Median usual weekly earnings: \$746
- Unemployment rate: 3.7%



Less than a high school diploma

- Median usual weekly earnings: \$592
- Unemployment rate: 5.4%

Noor Hezam is learning new digital skills, so she can better help her students and her own children.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOOR HEZAM



CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

How two women are improving their digital skills through adult education

BY THEA MARIE ROOD

In our increasingly digital world, it is next-to-impossible to find a job that doesn't demand familiarity with software programs and apps. Knowing how to confidently use Google and Microsoft Office helps you get hired and promoted—but also comes in handy if you're a parent.

"My daughter also uses some of these apps for school and I want to be able to assist her if she has any questions about how to use them and troubleshoot if needed," says Janice Crisostomo, who grew up in the Philippines and now lives in South San Francisco with her husband and two children. She is currently enrolled in Modern Technology, a virtual course offered by South San Francisco Adult Education.

Crisostomo has a college degree in hospitality management and wants a career in travel or tourism, but feels brushing up her computer skills will further enhance her resume.

"The tech industry is constantly changing and evolving and since many jobs are now using these apps, I figured it could help me become a better candidate for job opportunities," she says. "I've learned new things and realized how easy it is to apply some of these in my daily life. For example, using Google Sheets or Microsoft Excel for budgeting expenses, using Google Docs or Microsoft Word for creating documents and flyers, using Google Slides to create presentations and also using Google Forms for sending out invitations or questionnaires."

Similarly, Noor Hezam is attending the technology class for both personal and professional reasons. Hezam grew up, attended college and taught for 16 years in Yemen, but now lives in the Bay Area. The mother of five children—ranging in age from 13 to 32—has been an ELD paraprofessional educator at Ruby Bridges Elementary School for nine years. "Ever since the worldwide pandemic broke out, we were all forced to do our classes online, which also meant that I had to learn modern

technology skills in order to help my students and my own kids at home," she says. "I am learning many new things...such as how to create and edit Google slides, docs, spreadsheets, and even forms. Being able to learn all these new skills and techniques all through Google Classroom and Zoom meetings has been significant."

Both women credit a patient and understanding teacher, as well as detailed tutorials that help them work independently, and heartily recommend the course to others.

"This experience has been very delightful," says Hezam. "I loved every part of it."

"The tech industry is constantly changing and evolving and since many jobs are now using these apps, I figured it could help me become a better candidate for job opportunities."

Janice Crisostomo
Modern Technology student at
South San Francisco Adult Education

To learn more about programs at South San Francisco Adult Education, visit <https://ssfcae-ssfusd-ca.schoolloop.com> or phone 650-827-8455.

WHAT'S IN YOUR ADULT EDUCATION TOOLBOX?



TRANSITION TOOLS FOR K-12 ADULT AND NONCREDIT STUDENTS:

- Integrated Education & Training
- Guided Pathways
- Dual Enrollment
- Contextualized Instruction
- Immigrant Integration
- Career Counseling
- Competency Based Education
- Pre-apprenticeship
- Transition Specialists
- Career Pathways
- Federal Co-Enrollment

MAKING A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Focus on students' future starts with three C's

BY DEBBIE ARRINGTON



"We don't want you to get stuck on a problem or issue and drop out of school. We want to support the whole student, so they can get back to studying."

Patty Villar
Transition navigator, San Mateo Adult School

Patty Villar serves as transition navigator for San Mateo Adult School. Her job is to help students make the most of their educational opportunities, including tackling issues outside the classroom.

"My job is to make sure students are settled into classes," Villar said. "I support them while they're at San Mateo Adult School and I also support them for any non-educational need they may have. That may include housing, child care, financial help and immigration. We don't want you to get stuck on a problem or issue and drop out of school. We want to support the whole student, so they can get back to studying."

In her role as a transition specialist, Villar answered questions about adult education and the Bay Area students it serves.

What are the most common problems for adult education students?

Housing is the number one need for support, but it's also the most difficult issue to solve in high-priced San Mateo County. The next biggest issues are immigration and financing.

We do a lot of financial education and literacy; for example, helping students understand how important credit is to their future.

How do you help students focus on that future?

In helping with their transition, we focus on the three C's.

That first "C" stands for College. We mostly deal with students transitioning to local community colleges in our county. We have a partner at the college, a transition counselor to help students coming from adult schools.

On our end, we do some career exploration. We help students with the application process. We get them started.

What's the second "C"?

That's Career. We help students look for work, and also help students think about what jobs they would like. We help them with their resumes and preparing for job interviews. We may also point them to several organizations in the community that may be able to help them. It may be a trade introduction program or resources for self employment. We send them to a specific spot for their specific need.

And the third "C"?

The third "C" is Community – getting students the community support they need, but also encouraging them to become good citizens in that community. We introduce them to programs such as the YMCA or rec centers. Maybe students don't know these groups are out there and the services they have available.

We introduce students to volunteering. We have ongoing group volunteer projects such as the Second Harvest Food Bank or the public library book sale. We really stress volunteering as a way to not only give back to your community, but also as a way to build skills. Volunteering builds student confidence.

Which adult education programs are most popular?

ESL—English as a second language—is a big program for us. Our high school diploma program is also popular; you can do it from home. That makes it more accessible.

Training in digital skills is very popular. You can train in MicroSoft Office suite here and also train in other office skills.

In career training, pharmacy tech and clinical medical assistant are currently the most popular professional courses.

How much does adult education cost?

It depends on the program, but it's very affordable. Most of our classes are free or low cost. ESL is completely free. The high school diploma program is free. Our computer classes; some are free, others range from \$29 to \$99. That's still a bargain. You're getting professional training for less than \$100.

Keeping it affordable is important. We're trying to help students manage their money while thinking about education.

What is the biggest obstacle for students?

Time. The most common concern about going to school for most of our students is just time—trying to balance everything in their lives. They have families and jobs and they're trying to juggle it all as an adult—that's really difficult. That's why we have classes offered at different times and at night so there are more opportunities to learn.

There's a real need; there are so many adults in our area who have no diploma or computer skills. Adult schools have our niche—meeting students where they are.

Learn more about San Mateo Adult School at www.sanmateoadulted.org.

ADULT EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER



Find out what you can do to access these Bay Area Adult Education Consortium programs—or help support them.

1 ACCEL SAN MATEO COUNTY
789 East Poplar Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94401
650-558-2111
www.newfuturesanmateo.com

7 NORTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY CONSORTIUM
12345 El Monte Road
Los Altos, CA 94022
DirectorNSCCC@gmail.com
www.NSCAdultEd.com

2 CONTRA COSTA ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
1266 San Carlos Ave.
Concord, CA 94518
www.cccaec.us

8 SAN FRANCISCO ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
50 Frida Kahlo Way
San Francisco, CA 94112
415-239-3370

3 MARIN COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION BLOCK GRANT CONSORTIUM
835 College Ave.
Kentfield, CA 94904
<https://bit.ly/3lZR5wn>

9 SOLANO ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (SAEC)
5100 Business Center Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534
510-488-4345 x125
www.solanoadulted.org

4 MID ALAMEDA COUNTY CONSORTIUM
7600 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin, CA 94568
415-336-9618
www.macc4ae.org

10 SONOMA COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
1501 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-527-4720
www.socoadulted.org

5 NAPA VALLEY ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
1600 Lincoln Ave.
Napa, CA 94558
707-253-3594
www.nvaec.org

11 SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY CONSORTIUM FOR ADULT EDUCATION
4700 Calaveras Ave.
Fremont, CA 94538
510-793-6465
www.sacc-adulted.org

6 NORTHERN ALAMEDA ADULT EDUCATION COLLECTIVE
333 E. 8th St.
Oakland, CA 94606
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www.naaec.org

12 SOUTH BAY CONSORTIUM FOR ADULT EDUCATION
40 South Market Street, 5th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
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