

# Wyoming Adult Education Profile for 2015

## Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Title II –Adult Education and Family Literacy

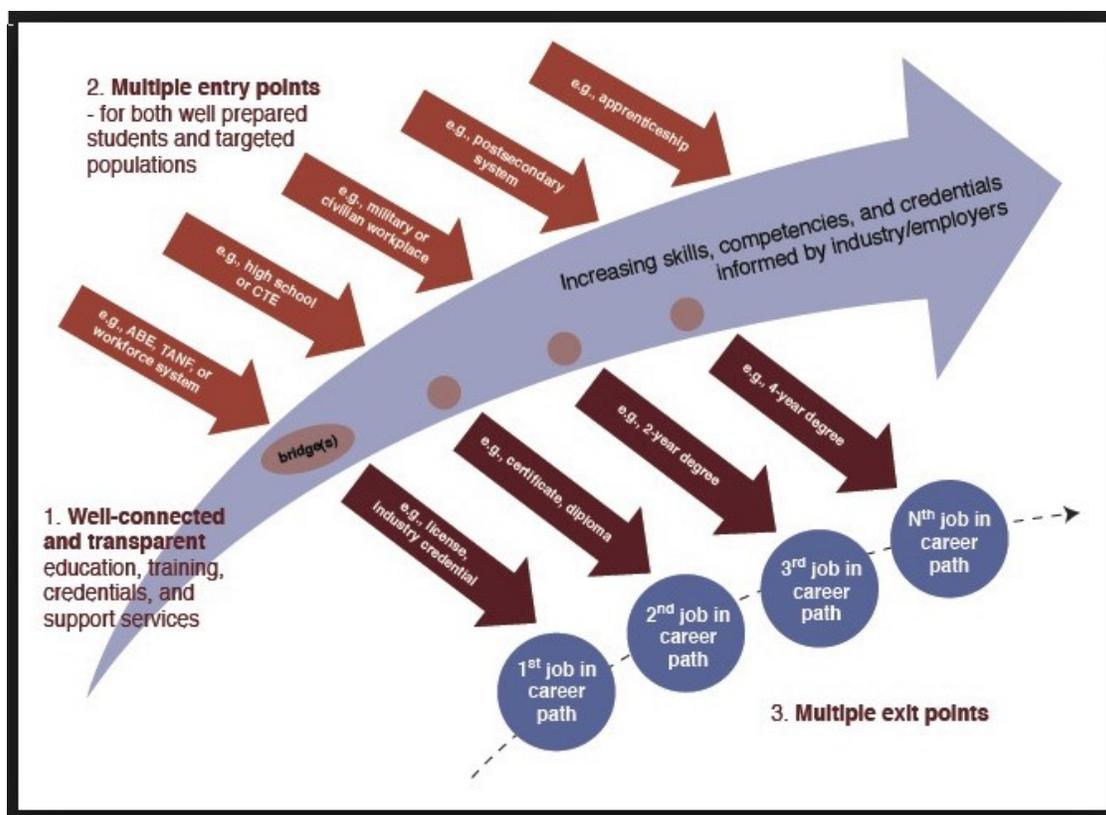
### Adult Education and Family Literacy “Up Scaling Adult Education into the Workforce Pipeline”

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was reauthorized by the US Congress under the new law entitled the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which was signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014 and became effective July 1, 2015. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers needed to compete in the global economy.

Adult Education (AE) is “up scaling” in preparation of WIOA Title II implementation. College and Career Readiness Standards have now been adopted as the AE state standards. Greater rigor and challenging academic standards are needed to give Wyoming citizens the skills to enter and advance in the changing labor market in our state.

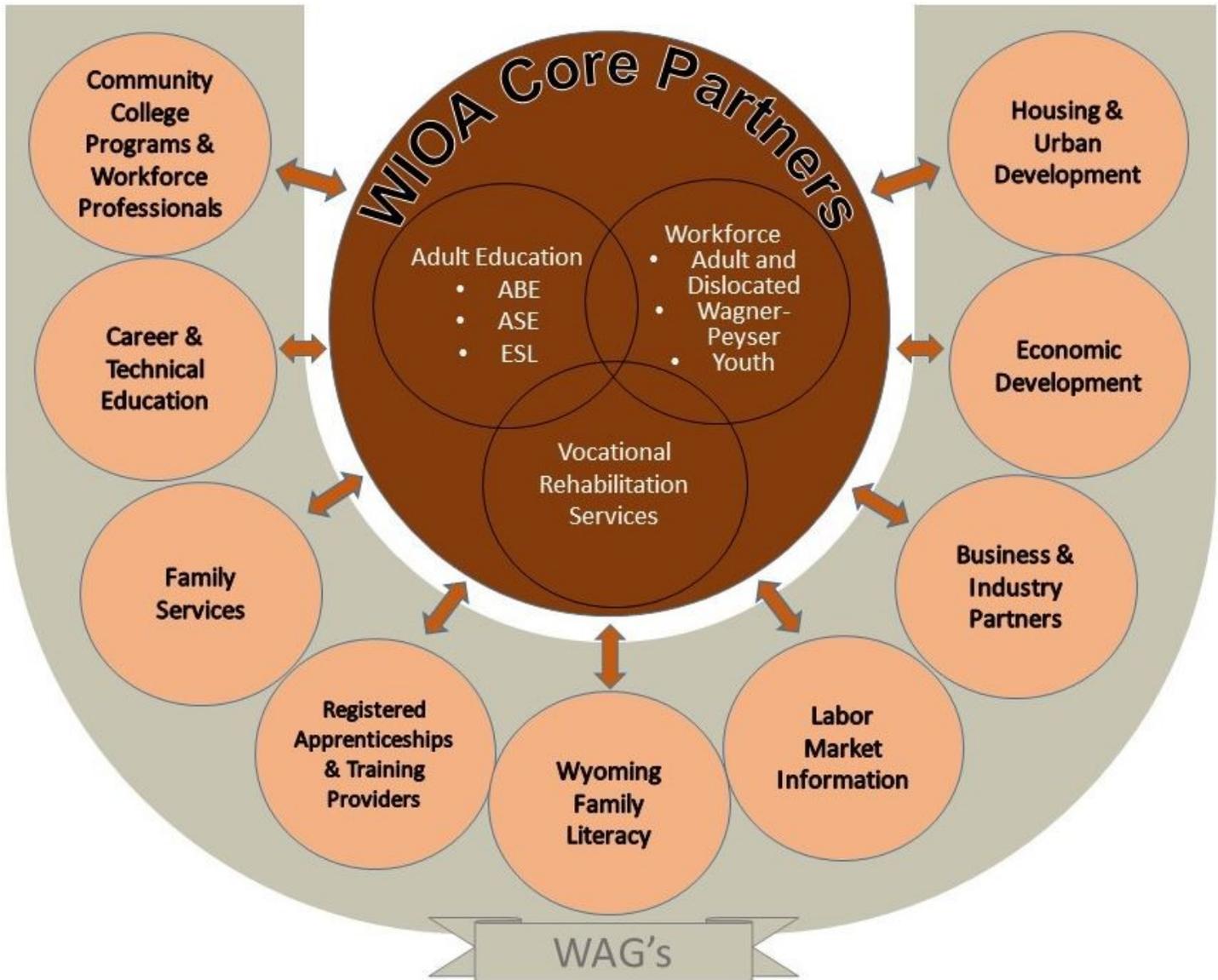
AE program staff completed training in Career Pathways and began to plan a Career Pathways pilot which would align to the new requirement of “integrated education and training” classes. WIOA requires AE to concurrently offer contextualized instruction and skills training for high-demand jobs. This is a more efficient model and helps students to complete a high school equivalency certificate or academic brush-up and skills training much sooner than the old model of requiring a person to complete one before starting the next. Embedded in this new model is the implementation of employability skills into the full AE program of services.

WIOA requires a workforce pipeline that is well connected and has multiple entry and exit points. Business and industry need well prepared workers both as entry level and mid-range workers. Every job has an ongoing need for workers to upgrade basic skills and learn new technology.



## WHO DO WE PARTNER WITH UNDER WIOA?

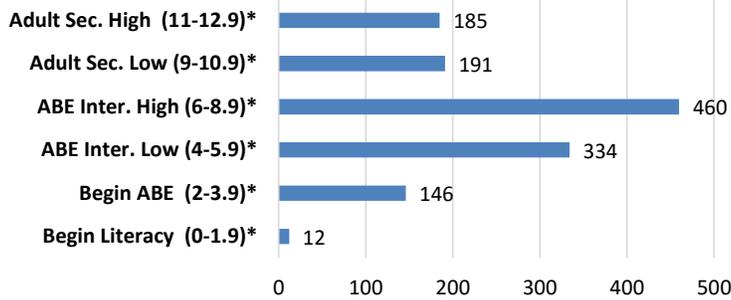
AE is one of six federal programs which are coming together to create the WIOA One-Stop Delivery System. AE is offering a strong partnership to the other primary federal programs (known as the core partners) of Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment Services, and Workforce Programs for Adult, Dislocated Workers, and Youth as the Wyoming Unified State Plan is developed. AE consists of three components: Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education and English as a Second Language.



Additional partners from many agencies, businesses, and educational institutions will need to work together to develop a system that works for each community and service area and for Wyoming citizens. Direction from the Governor and Workforce Development Council will guide the creation of the vision, mission and state goals. Cross-agency partners and employers engage for an integrated Career Pathways system. Once the roles and responsibilities of all partners are defined in the Unified State Plan, the Workforce Advisory Groups (WAGs) work locally to successfully implement the plan. All entities are potential members of the local WAGs.

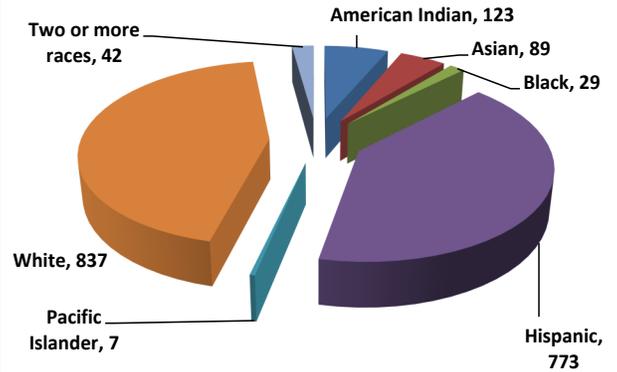
# WHO DO WE SERVE BY ETHNICITY, EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND GENDER IN ADULT EDUCATION?

**AE Students by Educational Functioning Levels  
2014-15**

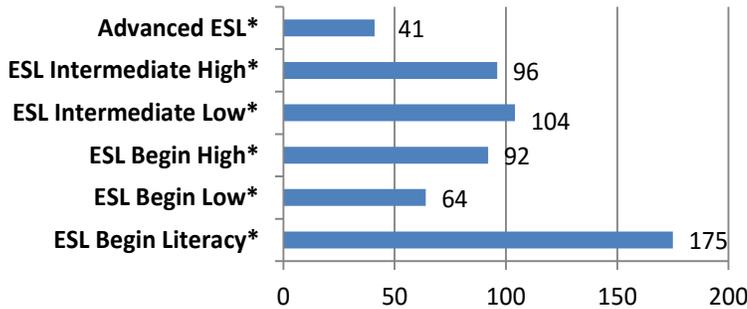


Grade Level Equivalent Skills\*

**AE Student Ethnicity**

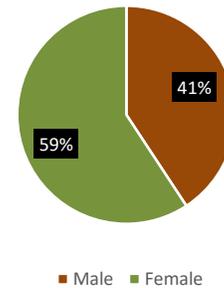


**English Language Learners 2014-15**



Speaking & Literacy Skill Levels\*

**AE Students by Gender**



## *Factors Influencing Success and Challenges of the Adult Education Program*

- Participatory learning strategies engage the learner and promote persistence.
- Managed enrollment classes have reduced the number served but offer greater educational gain.
- The percentage of English language learners continues to increase each year.
- Funding decreases from the state and federal levels have reduced the number of teachers, limiting the number of hours offered. Eighty-three percent of AE teachers are part-time.
- College and Career Readiness Standards demand greater rigor and complexity of instruction. New and deeper professional development for instructors is required to meet this higher quality instruction.
- The downturn in the economy brings the focus back to the higher level skills needed for dislocated workers to regain employment at salaries at or above their previous pay scale.
- Ever changing rules, regulations, and performance measures increase stress on the system.

## *Adult Education Facts*

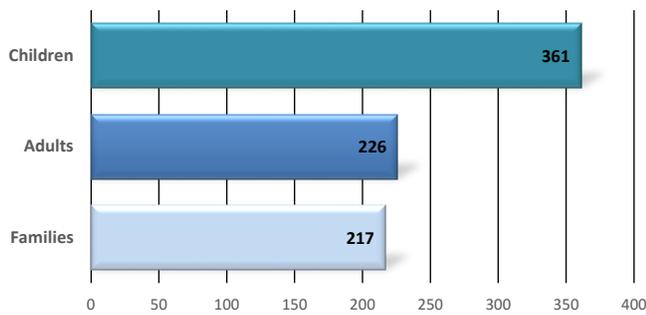
- Wyoming AE is engaging students to transition into college, certificate programs and apprenticeships. An AE goal is to have students enter directly into credit bearing classes and be ready to succeed in training. Integrated education and training pilot classes are planned for winter 2016.
- AE has incorporated a student success course for all new students.
- AE uses contextualized learning to add greater meaning and increase comprehension.
- AE is the non-traditional pathway to college.
- AE is developing articulated educational Career Pathways templates to use as guides in helping adults chart their individual career plans.
- Local WAGs are forming to help guide AE programs as they grow and expand their services.
- Local Wyoming Family Literacy Programs add wrap-around services allowing parents to complete their high school equivalency certificate, gain skills to become self sufficient, and learn to be their child's first teacher and positive role models.

## ADULT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WITH WYOMING FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

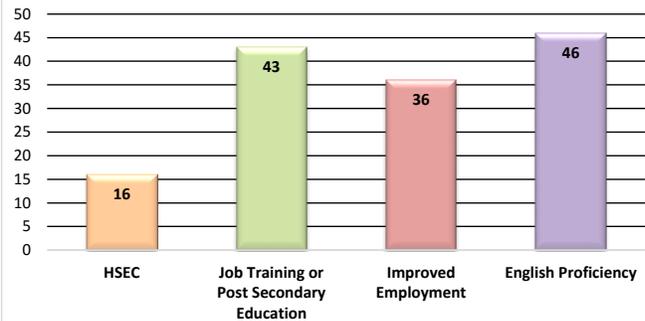
Wyoming Family Literacy focuses on four core elements; adult education, parent literacy, early childhood education, and PACT or interactive parent and child together time. By serving the families in each community who are most-in-need we work to break the cycles of inter-generational poverty and illiteracy. AE services are provided by WY AE centers when available.

- Parent literacy includes parenting skills, health, financial and workplace literacies to train parents to be capable first teachers for their children.
- Early Childhood Education (0-3 year old) includes infant/toddler care, developmental diagnostics and assessment. Pre-school (3-4 year old) and Kindergarten readiness (5 year olds only) are offered through all centers. School age (K-6) activities may be offered.
- PACT includes teaching parents safe, age-appropriate interactions with their children. We help parents learn skills to effectively engage their children in reading and numeracy activities.

**Family Literacy Volume 2014-15**



**Adult Outcomes**

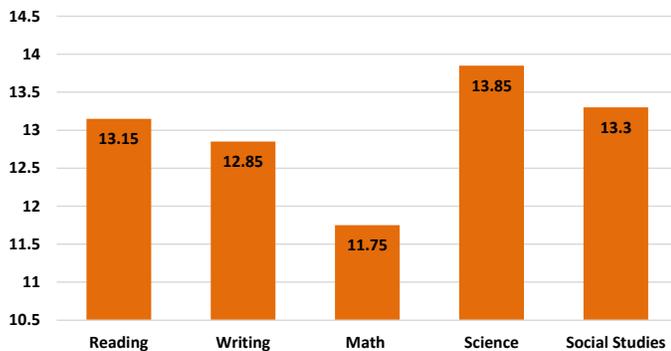


For 2014-15 Wyoming Family Literacy completed the necessary training to attain full integration, where possible, with WY AE's Align and Redesign initiative. We maintained eight fully state-funded sites operating in Casper, Cheyenne, Evanston, Gillette, Jackson, Laramie, Powell and Torrington. Parents served through the Family Literacy Program receive instruction from their local AE program and children are served in-house and with partner agencies. One site underwent major realignment which changed the service location, staffing and grant manager. Another site had a full staff turnover and Early Childhood service partner realignment.

## WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATION

The High School Equivalency Certification (HSEC) program completed its final phase of assessment implementation with the introduction of the CTB/McGraw-Hill assessment, know as the Test Assessing Secondary Completion or TASC. The TASC is offered in Evanston, Rawlins and Gillette. Additional availability for TASC in WY will depend on student demand and testing trends. In 2014-15 the High School Equivalency Test or HiSET from Educational Testing Services was by far the most utilized assessment in the state. HiSET is now offered in over 20 states and territories. Wyoming continues to offer the GED® Test from GED Testing Service, however, it is statistically insignificant in total test volume. Testing volume saw significant reduction from legacy levels with the introduction of all new, more difficult tests both locally and nationally. WY experienced an approximate 5% reduction in credentialing volume due to the increase in difficulty. Pass rate did not significantly deviate from our ten year pattern.

**2014 HiSET Average Scores by Subtest**



**Total HSEC Candidates Tested and Credentialed in Wyoming 2012-2014**

