

## Wyoming's Adult Education Students are High Performers on High School Equivalency



Wyoming students are earning top marks on high school equivalency exams. The 2019 pass rates on the GED was 90% placing Wyoming first in the nation. The pass rates on HiSET-the most common test used in Wyoming-was 88.6%, placing Wyoming 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Wyoming's Adult Education programs also saw three students earn some of the highest passing scores in the country with a 96% completion rate.

## Adult Education Initiatives/Alignments in FY 2019/20

### 01 Next Generation Sector Partnerships

AE participation with local Next Gen teams to identify/create needed trainings; DWS/AE Project Management Team training for students; employability skill trainings, contextualized instruction for Wyoming's in-demand industries.

### 02 Educational Attainment Initiative

Contextualization of instruction along career pathways tracks for credential attainment. Program integration of academics, employability skills, digital & financial literacy.

### 03 Perkins V & Wyoming Works

Through Perkins V & the Wyoming Works Programs AE programs concurrently enrolled students into postsecondary CTE programs of study for credential attainment.

04

### 08 Barriers to Employment

AE programs utilized a referral system to help participants overcome barriers to employment

### 07 (Pre)-Apprenticeships, Internships, OJT

Through the One-Stop system AE students were placed into work training programs, such as (pre)apprenticeships, internships, on the job trainings, and job shadowing. Multiple AE programs are currently working on developing pre-apprenticeship programs aligned to regional economic needs.

### 06 Workforce Business Training Grants & Pre-hire Grants

AE programs encouraged to partner with local employers to train/better equip Wyoming's workforce

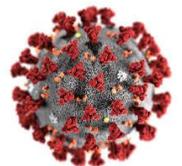
## Surviving COVID

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 forced the Adult Education programs in Wyoming to quickly pivot to a virtual environment, resulting in a great number of challenges for AE programs in Wyoming.

- **Immediate Need for Professional Development:** the community colleges provided this support allowing AE to offer hybrid classes which incorporated minimal face to face instruction, distance learning and/or learning in a completely virtual environment.
- **Lack of technology:** testing & learning was severely hampered by a lack of technology; both in equipment and in access to broadband internet services, particularly in the rural regions of the State.
- **Reduction in Availability of Wraparound Services:** participants struggled to find the time to study as the

State had severe shortages in childcare, transportation, and other community services, particularly in rural areas.

- **Decreased program performance:** Metrics to evaluate program performance were limited by national test manufacturer's struggles to create virtual assessments. Local programs displayed creative approaches to address this including testing in parks, parking lots, community centers, or any other place in which 'hot-spot' connectivity could be found.
- **Lower enrollment:** Between March-June 2020, Wyoming enrollments in Adult Education dropped 40% as compared to the same time period for FY 2018/19



## Adult Education Data and Statistics

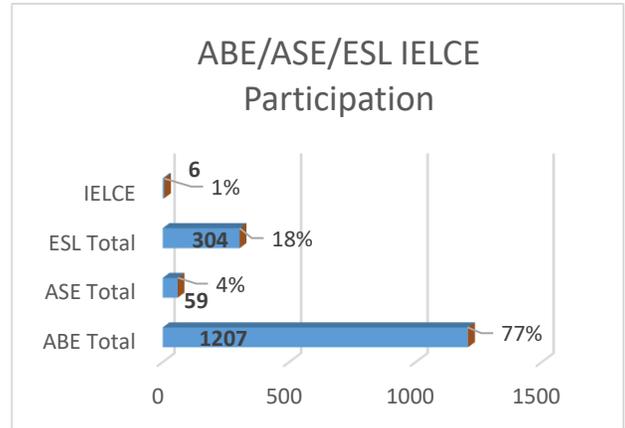
FY 2019-20 was a year of challenges, but despite the pandemic and economic downturn, our nine local programs met federal performance level targets, within the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, for the sixth consecutive year. The data presented in the charts and graphs found in this year's **Profile** provide information on the students served by the Wyoming AE program and their performance during the 2019-20 grant year.

### Characteristics & Demographics of Adult Education Students

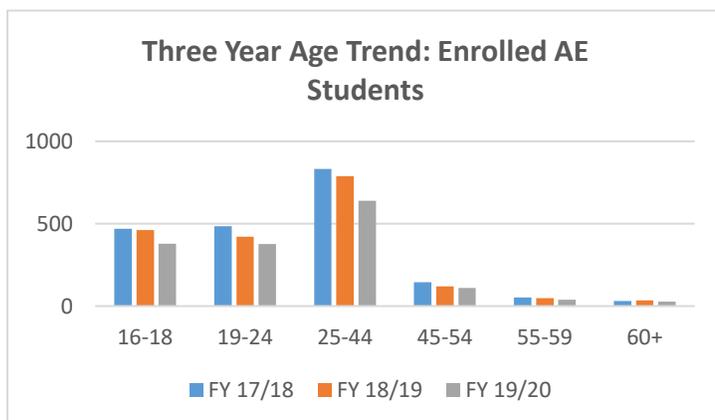
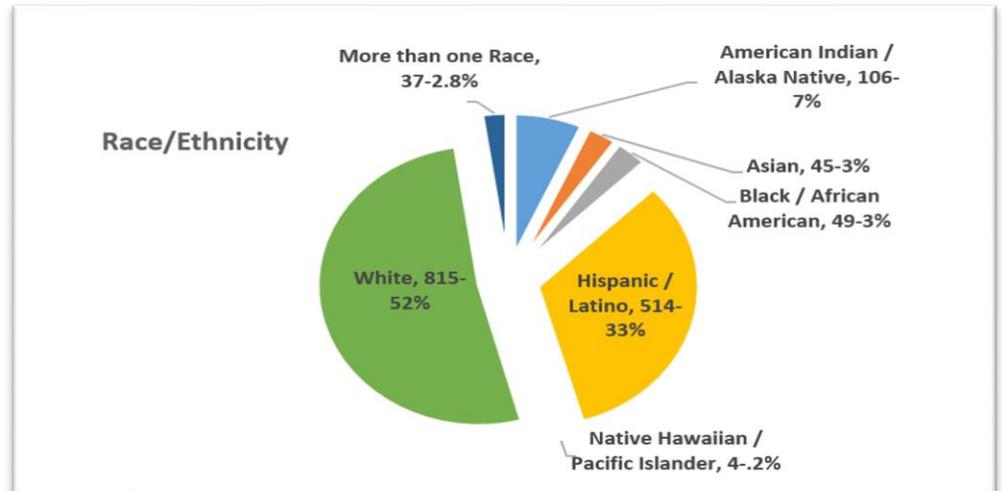
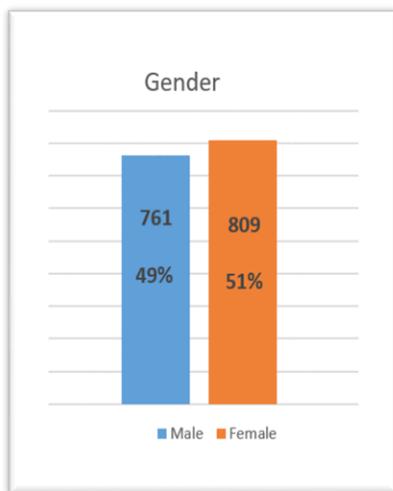
**Total Participants = 1,570**

Assessments in reading, writing, mathematics, or English as a Second Language subjects place students into one of the educational functioning levels shown in the chart

- **Adult Basic Education (ABE)** functions below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade skill level.
- **Adult Secondary Education (ASE)** functions at the high school skill level.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)** students range from no education to advanced degrees, but are not proficient in the English language.
- **Integrated English Literacy & Civics Education (IELCE)** programs prepare English language learners for unsubsidized employment in in-demand occupations or career pathways, which lead to economic self-sufficiency while helping improve communication skills and provide access to integrated education and training programs of study.



The demographics of the AE student population in Wyoming is fairly similar to national averages with the one notable difference being Wyoming's large representation of American Indian/Alaskan Native compared to Black/African American.

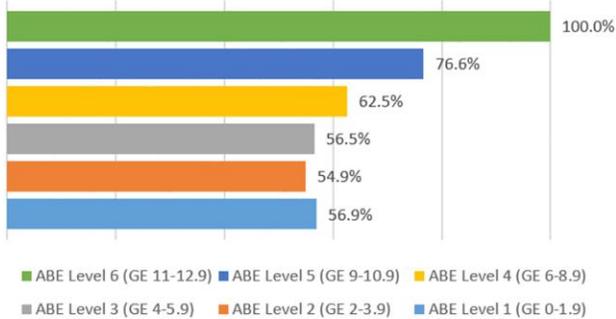


Over the past several years there has been a consistent drop in the number of 16-18 year old students enrolling in Adult Education. This correlates to increasing high school graduation rates as published by the WY Dept. of Education. During these same time periods AE has been enrolling higher numbers of students in the 19-44 age groups; thereby suggesting a need for increased diversification of program offerings along multiple career pathways tracks as more non-traditional students return to school.

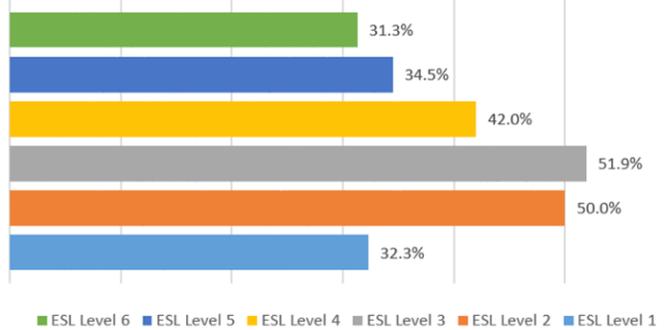
## Who We Serve: By Educational Functioning Level

Educational Functioning Levels are reported to the National Reporting System (NRS), which is an outcome-based reporting system for AE programs across the country. Student data collected throughout the year is reported to the US Department of Education: Office of Career, Technical & Adult Education (OCTAE). State data is then reported to Congress each year.

ABE/ASE Educational Functioning Level Gains: FY 2019/20



ESL Educational Functioning Level Gains: FY 2019/20

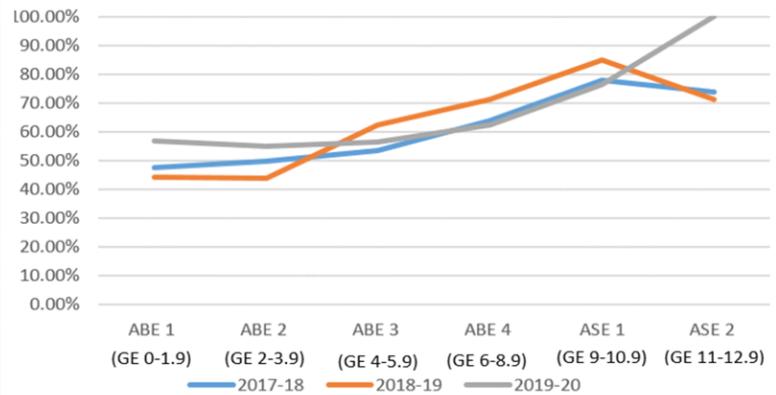


Wyoming's AE programs have shown consistent gains over the past several years due to the following improvements:

- Diversification of program offerings
- Increased number of students placed into job training programs
- Co-enrollments in postsecondary/training
- Screening for barriers to employment
- Implemented standards-based education in career pathways systems
- Adopted participatory learning strategies

These reforms have resulted in increased retention and completion rates across the entire State.

3 Year Trend in AE Educational Gains



## Credential Attainment

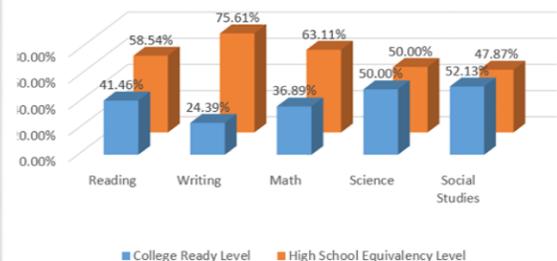


**59.70% of qualified AE students earned a credential!**

Across the past two years the percentage of qualified Wyoming AE students earning a credential has risen by nearly 20%, reflecting higher levels of students exiting with the qualifications needed to be successful in the workforce.

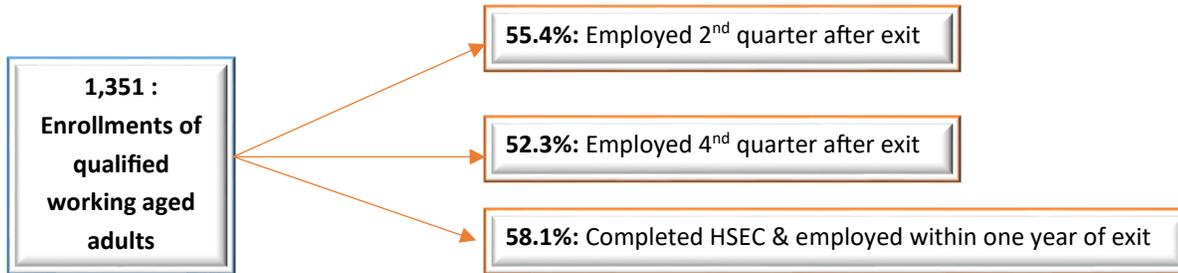
FY 2019/20 saw **328** Adult Education students earn an HSE credential. Of those students completing their HSE nearly 50% are passing battery tests at 'College Readiness' levels. Students who score at these levels are within the 75th percentile of graduating high school students and indicates that they should be able to enroll in credit-bearing course work at the university level.

HSEC Passing Score Percentages



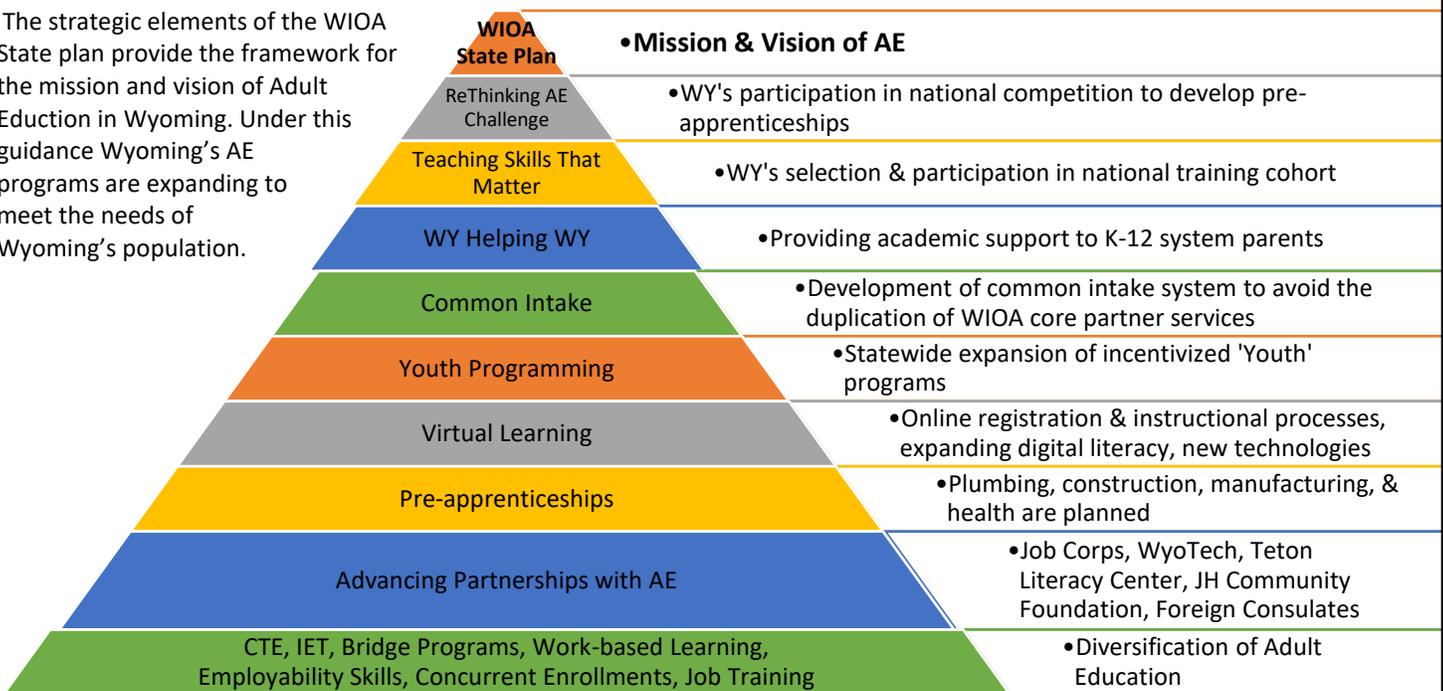
## Employment Outcome Measures

Under WIOA, the federal reporting metrics “Employed after 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after exit” and “Employed after 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after exit” are outcome measures tracked on previous year students. Fiscal year employment measures for Wyoming’s AE programs reflect employment rates which continue to be nearly two times higher than national averages for Adult Education.



## Looking Forward Strategic Plans

The strategic elements of the WIOA State plan provide the framework for the mission and vision of Adult Education in Wyoming. Under this guidance Wyoming’s AE programs are expanding to meet the needs of Wyoming’s population.

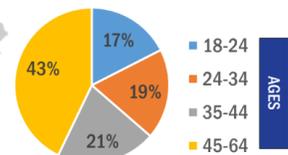


## Adult Education Makes a Difference!

The National Association of State Directors for Adult Education (NASDAE) May 2020 publication indicates there are over 22 million working aged adults in the U.S.A. without a high school diploma and yet 65% of jobs in the

22,895,720

Working-Age Adults (18-64) in the nation without a high school diploma



United States require at least some level of postsecondary education or training. The gap deficiency between low literacy levels and the required skill subsets needed by working class adults creates a fundamental barrier to every major challenge facing the United States, including early childhood education, educational reform, economic development, and improving the health and well-being of the nation’s families and communities. In the last two years the nation’s Adult Education programs have helped bridge this gap deficiency between high school and postsecondary/training by 25% as over 1.3 million adults have enrolled in our nation’s adult education system.