

FAQ

What is CESBA (the Ontario Association of Adult & Continuing Education School Board Administrators?)

CESBA is the provincial non-profit association that represents, advocates for and supports adult and continuing education (A&CE) staff working in school boards across Ontario. In addition to advocacy and professional development opportunities, we support and build capacity for professionals working in the A&CE sector through information, tools, resources and community partnerships.

What is Adult and Continuing Education (A&CE)?

A&CE programs are flexible and include different supports for adult learners. The supports enable adult learners to achieve their learning and or employment goals. A&CE programs in Ontario school boards include but are not limited to: credit courses leading to a high school diploma, language support programs such as ESL/FSL and LINC/CLIC, literacy and academic upgrading to help people transition to credit, to employment to post-secondary to apprenticeship or to independence. There are other sector specific training programs offered in various boards – Personal Support Worker certificate, Chef Training, Hair Styling, Aesthetics and more!

What is the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program?

This is a program that helps participants work more effectively in daily life or in their jobs. Through a wide range of learning activities, participants improve their reading and writing, improve their self-esteem and have options for continuing their learning. Some options include: preparing for a job or a better position, becoming independent and not relying on others to help with reading/math; moving to high school credit courses; moving to a pre-apprenticeship or trades programs or moving to post-secondary education.

Adult High School Credit Programs

These are credit courses for adults. Adults must be 18 or over to take the courses at an A&CE program. Credits granted are those that lead to the Grade 12 Ontario High School Diploma. Adult credits can be taken in many different ways including during the day, night, and during the summer. Courses are offered in the classroom and independently through e-learning and correspondence. Credits can also be granted to adults in recognition of their prior learning through the PLAR for Mature Students assessments.

Adult Non-Credit English as a Second Language (ESL) and French as a Second Language (FSL) programs

The ESL or FSL program provides instruction in the language of the school for adult students whose first language is not English. Most ESL students are at or near age appropriate levels of linguistic and cognitive development in their own languages.

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) / Cours de langue pour les immigrants au Canada (CLIC)

The LINC program is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). LINC provides free basic language skills for newcomers. In Ontario, the program is generally offered in English, there are a few institutions that offer it in French.

To be eligible for the LINC program in Ontario, participants must be at least 18 years old and must be a permanent resident of Canada, or Convention Refugee, or be a person in Canada whose application for Permanent Resident status is being processed in Canada and who has been informed by a letter from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada of the initial approval of application subject to an admissibility assessment.

Learn more: <https://settlement.org/ontario/education/english-as-a-second-language-esl/linc-program/what-is-the-language-instruction-for-newcomers-to-canada-linc-program/>

How can I learn about an adult education program near me?

The English and French links below will assist you to find an adult education program near your work or home:

English: <http://feats.findhelp.ca/eng/search.html>

French: <http://feats.findhelp.ca/fre/search.html>

Some Facts

Canada participated in the most recent Survey of Adult Skills, which is a product of the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies. **48.6 % of Canadian adults are considered to have inadequate literacy skills.** In 2003, 42% of Canadian adult were considered to have inadequate literacy skills. Literacy rates are important as they affect many aspects of society from the social perspective to the financial or economic impact.

There are almost **800,000 working age Ontarians without a high school diploma** (Employment & Social Development Canada Household Survey, 2011).

High school graduates have the potential to **increase after-tax earnings by almost 30% over non-completers.**¹

Ontario school board adult education programs **graduate approximately 11,000 students each year** (with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma).

70% of all future jobs will require further education that builds on a high school diploma (Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario).

Adult and continuing education programs are free or require low fees (e.g. the PSW program fee which grants a certificate to graduates is under \$2,000).

¹ Cost Estimates of Dropping Out of High School in Canada, Olena Hankivsky, 2008