

May 5 2025

Governor Josh Shapiro
508 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro,

I write to thank you for supporting Pennsylvania's investment in workforce development by increasing the Adult and Family Literacy Education line item in the Department of Education's proposed budget to \$22.7 million. With Pennsylvania facing a contraction of working age adults, we must find ways to ensure that no Pennsylvanian is left behind. The 1.6 million working age adults who struggle with literacy and basic skills can be part of the solution. All they need is a chance to access education services to build their skills. Adult and Family Literacy Education in Pennsylvania is an entry point into the state's workforce development systems for thousands of Pennsylvanians.

Pennsylvania's investment in Adult and Family Literacy Education is helping thousands go from learning to earning and contributing to our region's prosperity. Additional resources will ensure that these programs reach more people in need and support their ability to get and keep good jobs that support their families. More than 700,000 working age adults in Pennsylvania do not have a high school credential, keeping them out of jobs and job training. More than 700,000 adults do not speak English well or at all, many who are highly skilled such as doctors, nurses, accountants, and other professionals who can only work in entry level jobs because they need to speak, read and write English. This is what Adult and Family Literacy Education providers do – they help those left behind attain a basic education and help the newly arrived learn English and reclaim their careers.

Thank you again for supporting Adult and Family Literacy Education in Pennsylvania.

Yours Sincerely,

Gillian Maule
Executive Director