

high school equivalency credential

THE **PATHWAY** FOR OUR U.S. WORKFORCE



**Showcasing the Value of HSE Credentials for
the Adult Education System**

COABE



NASDAE
National Association of State
Directors of Adult Education

Speakers

AEFLA/WIOA
Impacts that Count



Pat Tyler - Executive Director
National Association of State
Directors of Adult Education
(NASDAE)



Marilyn Pitzulo - Associate Chief for Workforce Strategy
Indiana Department of Workforce Development



Sharon Bonney - Chief Executive Officer
Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)



The Importance of Impacts that Count: Telling the HSE Credential Story

Innovations: Impacts that Count

Indiana – Adult Education System

Arizona – Pima Community College

Washington State – Community & Technical Colleges

Campaign Toolkit: Your Call to Action!

eMagazine Content

Web Page

PR Efforts to Date

Social Media Posts

Q&A

www.COABE.org/ImpactsThatCount



Trusted Advisors: The Adult Education System

Adult education programs in the United States are funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (AEFLA/WIOA), a federal law that aims to provide funding for various workforce development programs, including adult education that serves as a pipeline to the community college system for students.

AEFLA/WIOA INNOVATIONS FOR ADULT LEARNERS

services

- Basic Education
- English Language Instruction
- High School Equivalency (HSE) preparation
- Transition to Postsecondary
- Job Training
- Digital Equity Services & Skills Building

providers

- Community Colleges
- School Districts
- Adults Secondary Schools
- Community-based Nonprofits



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HSE Credential Equates to Employment & Earnings

The AEFLA/WIOA system provides services to those individuals most in need of adult education, including English language learners and students entering with academic skills far below the secondary level, as well as those who enter with secondary level skills.

This system is cost efficient at serving students seeking a high school credential and/or skill development for the purpose of successful transition to postsecondary/ training and employment.

AEFLA/WIOA INNOVATIONS FOR ADULT LEARNERS



AEFLA/WIOA Program Data Fiscal Year 2022



81,213

Adults Served Entering
with 9th Grade Level or
Higher in Reading, Math &
Language Arts

73,607

High School
Credentials
Awarded [i]*.

In 2022

Workers without a high school
diploma had median weekly
earnings of \$682, while
workers with a diploma made
\$853 per week [iii].

45%

Graduates enrolled in
postsecondary education
within three years of
graduation [vi].

90%

Learners re-enrolled from
one semester to the next
– compared to 29 percent
before 2014 [vi].

86%

Employers that were
surveyed had a requirement
for a high school diploma
or HSE credential. [vii].

*For comparison, the national high school graduation rate was 87% [ii].



Innovations from the Field

Impacts that Count



The Challenges

- **No funding increase** in more than two decades: in the prior biennial budget, adult education **was cut 15%**.
- During that same period, Indiana authorized & funded **Adult High Schools & the Workforce Diploma program** to serve the same population. They have seen no funding reductions.
- These entities had **fewer restraints and more resources** to advocate with legislators for additional funding.
- The AEFLA programs had outstanding performance but there was a **lack of understanding about who we were**. (Legislators were confused Indiana Adult Education with Adult High Schools).
- There was a **push for “evidence based”** outcome and performance data.



The Solutions

- **Educate key stakeholders** on need for adult education & options for services in Indiana.
- Keep it **simple and concise** at one page or less.
- Assure all data can be verified by a third party. **Cite sources!**
- Add **no opinion**. Let the data speak for itself.
- Obtain **agreement** and **buy in** from all stakeholders and advocates. A **consistent message** to legislators is critical.



Outcomes

INDIANA	Adult Education	Adult High Schools	Workforce Diploma Program
Guiding Legislation	State - IC 22-4.1-20 Federal - WIOA, Title II	IC 20-24-1-2.3	IC 22-4. 1-27
Governing Agency	DWD	Authorizing Charters	GWC
Total Funding State Funding (20-21)	\$24,672,676 \$12,985,041 (53%)	\$40,331,250 \$40,331,250 (100%)	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000 (100%)
Locations	250 locations; 92 Counties	23 locations; 13 Counties	Online Only
Avg. Time to Complete	19.4 weeks*	76.4 weeks**	N/A
2020-21 Enrollment	17,541	5,655	515*^
2020-21 Graduates	4,744	840	116*^
Cost per Student	\$1,406	\$6,750	\$1,941.75
Cost/Graduate State Cost \$/Grad	\$5,200.82 \$2,737.15	\$45,441.96 \$45,441.96	\$8,620 \$8,620



State the Case

Indiana Adult Learning Landscape

- Approximately 430,000 adult Hoosiers lack a high school education.
- Adults with no diploma or equivalency are far less likely to participate in the labor force. Those who are in the labor force are far more likely to be unemployed.
- Indiana serves adult learners through two primary models: 1) Adult Education programs; and 2) state approved Adult High Schools. A third option, the Workforce Diploma Program was authorized by state statute in 2019.
- Each year, more students are dropping out of Indiana High Schools than are completing in all 3 of these models combined.
- DWD has made significant efforts to increase the number of adult education participants that receive relevant workforce training alongside their adult education.
- There is a waiting list of employers seeking to participate in these kinds of training because of inadequate funding.



	Adult Education	Adult High Schools	Other Secondary Diploma Program
Guiding Legislation			
Governing Agency			
Total Funding			
State Funding (20-21)			
Locations			
Avg. Time to Complete			
2020-21 Enrollment			
2020-21 Graduates			
Cost per Student			
Cost/Graduate			
State Cost \$/Grad			



Campaign Toolkit

www.COABE.org/ImpactsThatCount





COABE
COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

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HSE Credential Equates to Employment & Earnings



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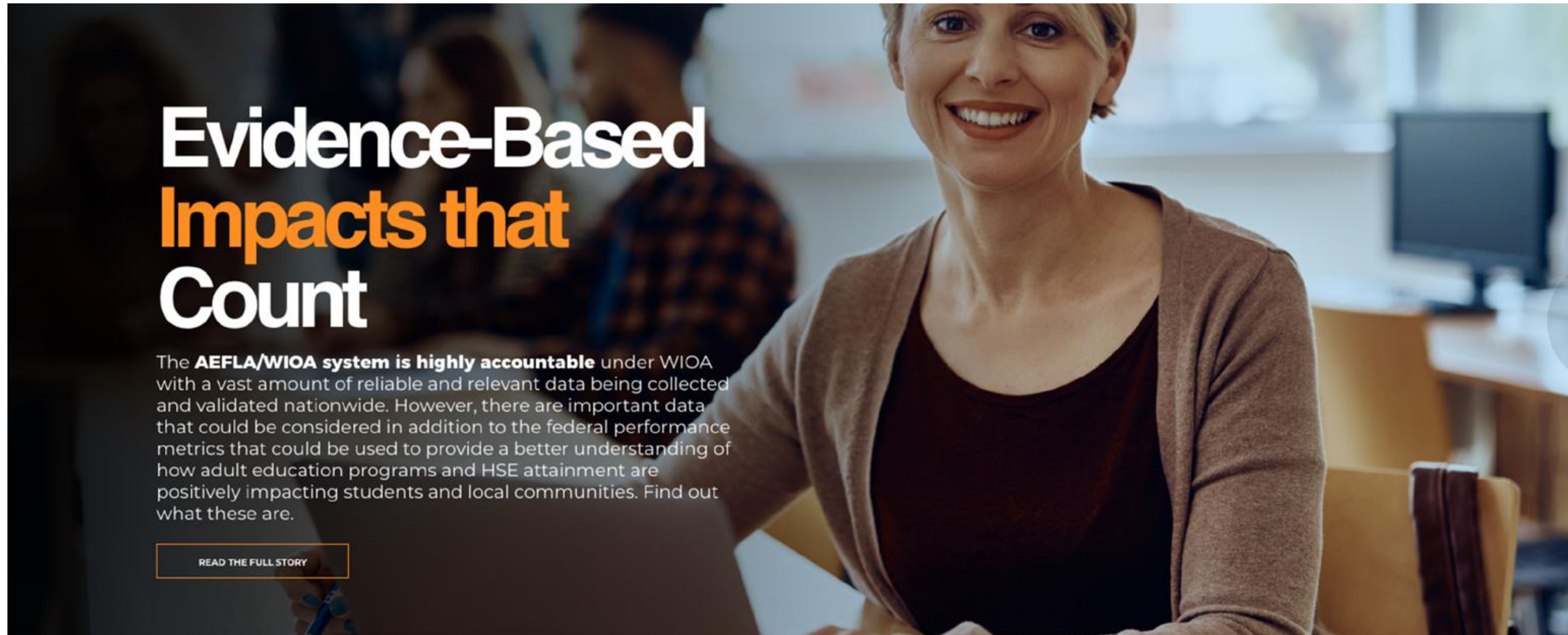
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compared to 29 percent
before 2014 [vi].





Evidence-Based Impacts that Count

The **AEFLA/WIOA system is highly accountable** under WIOA with a vast amount of reliable and relevant data being collected and validated nationwide. However, there are important data that could be considered in addition to the federal performance metrics that could be used to provide a better understanding of how adult education programs and HSE attainment are positively impacting students and local communities. Find out what these are.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



AEFLA/WIOA Innovations for Adult Learners

Funding for the AEFLA/WIOA system is hard at work **helping individuals through comprehensive wrap around services to improve their skills**, increase their job opportunities and wages, and contribute to the overall economic growth and stability of the country. Learn about innovations in adult education from across the nation.

INNOVATIONS FROM THE FIELD

SUBMIT AN INNOVATION





- ABOUT
- STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
- PARTNERSHIPS
- MEMBERSHIP
- ADULT LEARNERS
- AWARDS
- WEBINARS & RESOURCES
- COABE JOURNAL
- LEGISLATIVE
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INDIANA:
Adult Education System

Indiana adult education positively impacts employers through the Workforce Employment Initiative (WEI). Through WEI partnerships, adult education providers leverage multiple WIOA services to support adult learners in the workplace. Each partnership customizes learning around employer needs to increase worker retention and opportunities for advancement. Examples of partnerships include English language classes, Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs, and HSE preparation and testing all offered at the job site. Last year, Indiana had 180 employer partners.



In The News



National AEFL Week Amplifies Industry Achievements in Upskilling the Workforce
Low-cost programs offer high value gains for wide variety of adult learners, including High School Equivalency (HSE) and job training seekers. [Read More](#)

[READ MORE NEWS](#)



Podcast with Sharon Bonney
Driven by the inspiring journeys of her grandmother and husband, who both earned their GEDs as adults, Sharon is a staunch advocate for adult education and paints a vivid picture of the breadth of adult education. [Listen Now](#)



Communications Tools **for the Field**

Get engaged in the ***Impacts That Count*** campaign!

[Share your AEFL/WIOA innovation with us.](#)

[Download a data template to calculate your impacts.](#)

[Echo your successes through these ready-made social media posts.](#)

[Forward the HSE Credential Report to your key influencers.](#)





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THE **PATHWAY** FOR OUR U.S. WORKFORCE

In the United States, despite low unemployment rates, many families, including those with working heads of households, are still struggling with insecurities in areas such as food, housing, transportation, childcare, and healthcare. One program stands out to help low-wage workers increase their skills and earn higher salaries: the federally funded adult education system that **serves nearly 1,000,000 adult learners nationwide** [i].

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Evidence-Based Impacts that Count

Funding for the **AEFLA/WIOA system** is hard at work helping individuals through comprehensive wrap-around services to improve their skills, increase their job opportunities and wages, and contribute to the overall economic growth and stability of the country.

The AEFLA/WIOA system is highly accountable under WIOA with a vast amount of reliable and relevant data being collected and validated nationwide.

However, there are important data that could be considered in addition to the federal performance metrics to provide a better understanding of how adult education programs and HSE attainment are positively impacting students and local communities.

These include:

1. Count all high school credentials issued as performance outcomes (current federal performance standards only count high school completion if other outcomes are achieved in addition to receipt of a high school credential).
2. Widespread implementation of the Integrated Education and Training (IET) models.
3. The revision of national high school equivalency assessments to align with current high school graduation standards.
4. Addition of numerous state-designed secondary credential options making HSE credentials more relevant over the past decade.



HSE Testing Changes

Significant changes have occurred with High School Equivalency measurement and credentialing since 2014 [iv, v].

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMS:

1. Undergo regular review and revision to ensure content and skills reflect the current high school curriculum.
2. Are normed and fully aligned to leading college- and career-readiness content standards, measuring both high school equivalency and college- and career-readiness.
3. Certify that candidates' academic knowledge and skills are equivalent to those of high school graduates.
4. Have passing standards that are based on high school graduation standards.
5. Measure proficiency in core subject areas, e.g., reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, as applied to life and work situations;
6. Assess test-taker critical thinking, problem solving, and computer skills ("constructed response") required for college- and career-readiness.
7. Are accepted by nearly all colleges and employers; and
8. Offer postsecondary institutions a record of skills a graduate demonstrates and the meaning behind the scores to better understand accomplishments.



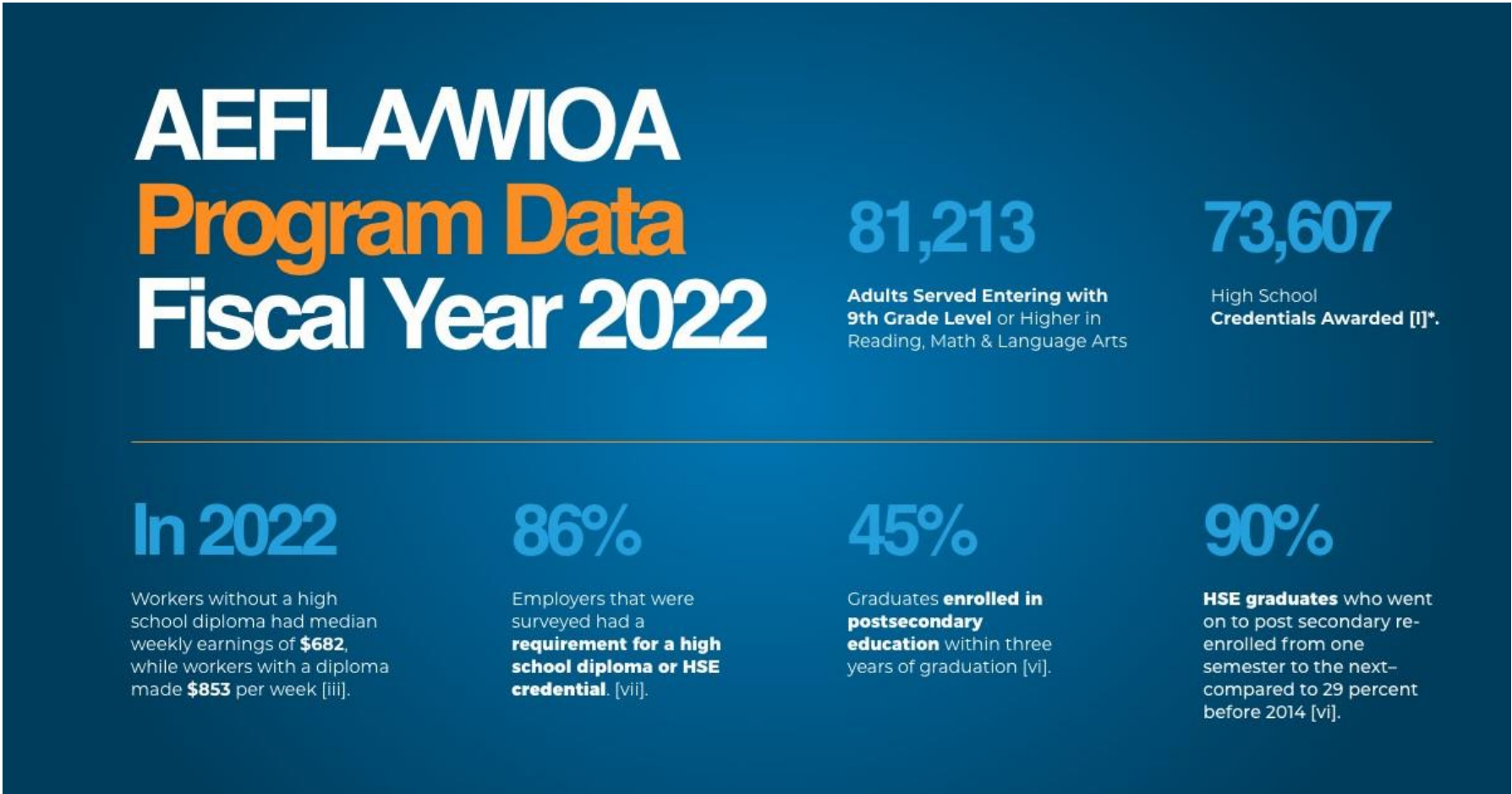
RIGOROUS:

Since 2014, HSE tests have been aligned to college and career readiness.



Social Media Post Bank & Graphics

AEFLA/WIOA
Impacts that Count



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Impacts that Count Campaign
Social Media Post Bank

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- [HSE Promotion](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Supporting the Workforce](#)
- [Innovations](#)
- [Washington State: Community & Technical Colleges](#)
- [Arizona: Pima Community College](#)
- [Indiana: Adult Education System](#)
- [HSE Credential](#)
- [Evidence-Based Impacts That Count](#)
- [HSE Testing Changes](#)
- [HSE + Funding Ask \(for those organizations who can add a funding ask\)](#)


Background

#ImpactsThatCount: NASDAE and COABE have partnered on a new information campaign and toolkit for states to share the value of the AEFLA/WIOA system and High School Equivalency (HSE) credentials for adult learners.




AEFLA/WIOA Innovations for Adult Learners

To learn more about AEFLA/WIOA innovations taking place across the nation for adult learners go to:
www.COABE.org/ImpactsThatCount



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Innovations from the field



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 Made in InVision

 Screens (2 of 2)

- Go to www.COABE.org/ImpactThatCount to view the campaign and download the toolkit.
- Use the **social media** bank posts, the hashtags & graphics to let legislators know about the Impacts that Count campaign.
- Share the **eMagazine link** with legislators and key influencers.
- Use the **data template** to build your business case of support for your state or local area.
- **Submit your innovations** so we can share out on the campaign website and through social media!
- Stay tuned as we roll out a series of **Communications Webinars** to help you build value in your adult education brand & become expert storytellers.





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