

## **Training on the GO**

*By Jacob Dallas-Main, 11/29/2023*

Georgia's Adult Education students can participate in workforce training while completing their studies through the Training on the GO program. Training on the GO is Georgia's approach to the Integrated Education and Training (IET) service model under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Students can earn postsecondary and/or industry-recognized credentials in high-demand career fields while simultaneously working towards their high school equivalency diploma, learning English, or taking digital/workplace literacy classes. Training on the GO programs put Adult Education students on a fast track to employment, a better job, a higher wage, and ultimately, a bridge to a better future.

Beginning in 2017, TCSG's Office of Adult Education (OAE) implemented a state policy that required all Adult Education providers to develop and implement at least one Training on the GO program. The goal was to emphasize workforce development and career pathways. In 2022, Governor Kemp signed the [High Demand Career Initiative Program \(HDCI\)](#) into law to identify the workforce needs for Georgia to remain the number one state in the nation for business. The HDCI ultimately identified key industries that are in-demand, pay an above-average entry-level wage, and are considered strong options for pursuing a successful career in Georgia. Training on the GO programs are designed to specifically target these high-demand industries as a critical workforce development strategy.

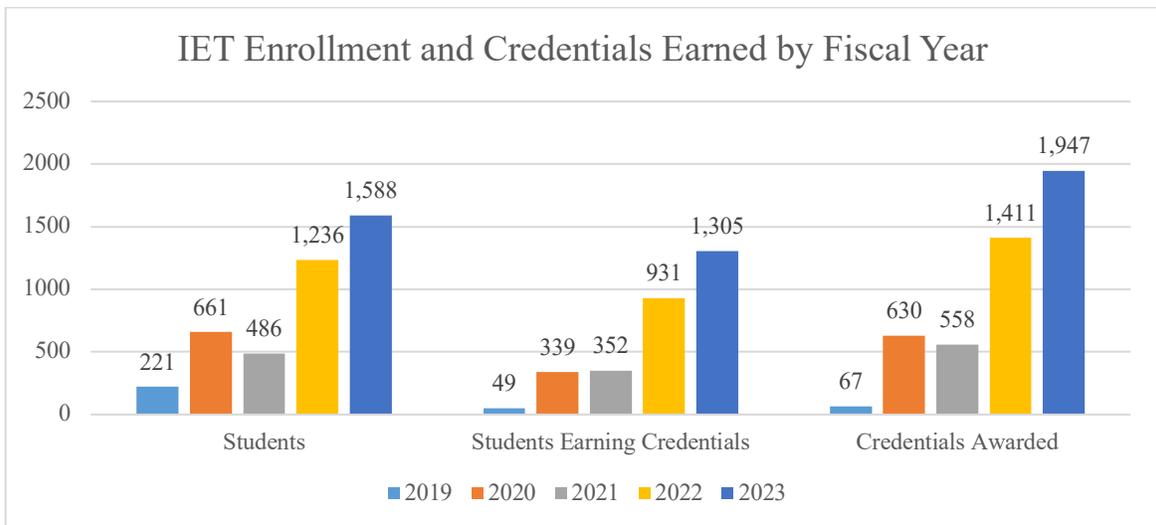
Training on the GO programs span across several career pathways, with most providers offering a variety of credential options. Examples of Training on the GO programs include, but are not limited to:

- Commercial Truck Driving

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Customer Service
- Cybersecurity
- Forklift
- Medical Administrative Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Welding

Training on the GO offers the chance to combine credentials (for example, Occupational Safety & Health Administration and Forklift), so adult learners can earn more than one recognized industry credential in the process. Programs can take anywhere from two to fifteen weeks depending on the certification(s) in question.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic affected participation in the latter part of the 2020 and the 2021 fiscal years. The program’s enrollment rebounded in FY 2022 and has continued to grow.



<sup>1</sup> Source: AES7003

Adult Education providers collaborate with training providers to develop and implement the program. Training providers include the technical colleges Academic Affairs and Economic Development departments and nonprofits. Adult Education providers also collaborate with local workforce development boards and employers to ensure Training on the GO programs are addressing workforce needs. Through partnerships with local employers, some Training on the GO programs include internships that help students find jobs and transition directly to the workforce upon receiving their credential.

OAE is excited about what is on the horizon for Training on the GO in Georgia. Providers now offer these programs each quarter to enable as many students as possible to benefit from the opportunity. OAE will continue to work with providers to expand Training on the GO by exploring additional high-demand industries and developing even more direct pathways to employment, such as establishing credit-based programs with technical colleges or pre-apprenticeship programs with employers.