

# Adult Literacy Overview

by: Jacob Dallas Main

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As of 2013, the Afterschool Alliance found that 1 in 6 adult Georgians struggled with low competence in English literacy.[1] By 2017 Georgia ranked 42nd among U.S. states for overall adult literacy.[2] This presents serious obstacles in employment and daily life for many Georgians. The Adult Education & Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), aims to tackle this challenge by providing funding to assist adults in improving literacy skills, enhancing their English proficiency for non-native English speakers, and gaining employment-related knowledge. AEFLA funding also helps them become full partners in the educational development of their children and family members.[3]

The Office of Adult Education (OAE), within the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), is responsible for implementing AEFLA's mission. OAE employs a multi-faceted approach, utilizing Certified Literate Community Programs (CLCPs) and general adult education classes.

## CLCPs

CLCPs, stemming from a 1990 initiative by Governor Zell Miller, bring together stakeholders to improve education and adult literacy rates.[4] They utilize funding for various purposes such as building learning centers, addressing transportation and childcare needs, and providing materials and tutors. CLCPs promote adult education services, recruit students, and provide support systems for learners and literacy providers. Although CLCPs are autonomous, OAE provides a level of oversight and coordination across TCSG approved organizations. Each CLCP works with a local adult education program provider to coordinate events and initiatives that benefit adult learners in their respective communities.[5]



CLCPs allow for community organizations to assist on a specialized level with local needs. CLCPs ultimately change the culture of a community by making education a priority tied to resolving community concerns and celebrating educational achievements so learners of all types and backgrounds can thrive. This process can be as standard as distribution of educational materials to as inventive as community spelling bees where staff wear actual bee costumes (to use an example from Troup County)! [6]

[1] <https://www.afterschoolga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Improving-Literacy-in-Georgia-Final.pdf>

[2] [FY23-Policies-and-Procedures-Manual-1.pdf \(tcsgeu\)](#)

[3] [Comparison Charts of State and County Estimates - U.S. States \(ed.gov\)](#)

[4] [Adult Education Certified Literate Community Program - TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia](#)

[5] [CLCP FAQs - TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia](#)

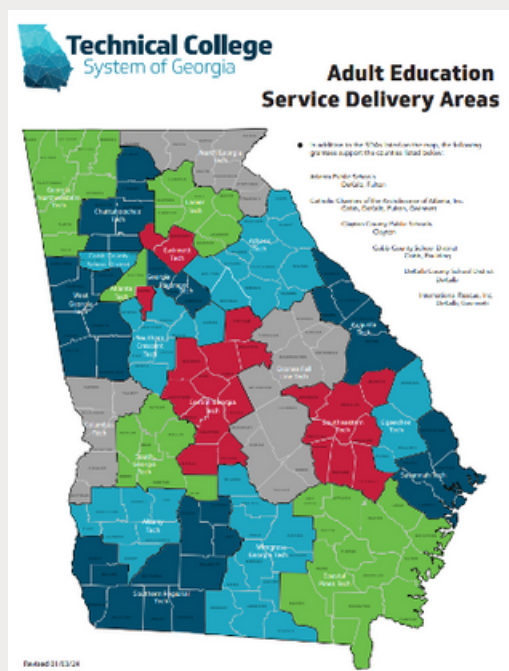
[6] [Certified Literate Community Program - New Georgia Encyclopedia](#)

Although CLCPs are individual and autonomous institutions, the OAE oversees and, on a four-year cycle, reviews the status of new and recurring CLCPs. This oversight allows for coordination between programs, collective events and initiatives (such as events for International Literacy Day, Hispanic Heritage Month, and a CLCP retreat at Lanier Technical College),[7] and a better collaboration between CLCPs and TCSG’s adult education classes. For more information on CLCPs, refer [here](#). For a list of current CLCPs, refer [here](#).

## ADULT EDUCATION

In addition to the literacy initiatives provided by the CLCPs, OAE’s adult education classes offer high school equivalency (GED and HiSET) training, ESL instruction, workforce training, and basic literacy programs.[8] These programs are free across Georgia. All 22 technical colleges, as well as 7 school districts/community-based organizations offer adult education programs. A map of OAE delivery areas is below.

Many adult learners cannot read at all, have an exceptionally low reading level, or, in the case of about 18% of learners, are ESL students learning to read in English for the first time.[9] Adult Education programs therefore spend a significant amount of time in reading instruction as a necessary step towards greater educational competency, and in many cases, towards receiving one’s high school equivalency. The STAR Reading Curriculum is typically used in adult literacy instruction due to its evidence-based [methodology](#). For more information on the Office of Adult Education, refer [here](#).



## FAMILY LITERACY

AEFLA also emphasizes family literacy, supporting parents who assist their children in their learning journeys. Collaborations with the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL), and other literacy partners aim to expand family literacy initiatives across Georgia.[10] These initiatives focus on literacy instruction for parents and activities that promote parent-child literacy development. Savannah Technical College, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Columbus Technical College, and the DeKalb County School District are participating in this grant.

DECAL also worked with the Atlanta Fulton Family Connections and Columbus Literate Community Program CLCPs in providing the “Build Your Child’s Brain” grant, which helped these institutions with funding, coaching, and material assistance as they trained parents based on the [CDC’s Developmental Milestones](#) and built children’s first libraries.

In addition to basic literacy instruction, parents of children can receive classes at the above locations that focus on skills to increase school involvement (such as filling out forms, class volunteering, etc.) These programs also hold training for children and activities for parents and children to develop their literacy skills in tandem and encourage educational parent-child activities such as going to the local library together. For more information on and examples of Georgia’s family literacy initiatives, refer [here](#).

## CONCLUSION

In the 2023 fiscal year, approximately 28,200 adult learners participated in adult literacy programs in Georgia. The collaboration between OAE, CLCPs, and state Adult Education programs offers diverse solutions to the challenge of adult illiteracy. These initiatives continue to educate, assist, and empower the people of Georgia, contributing to individual, familial, and community growth.[11]

[7] [2022-CLCP-Calendar.pdf \(tcsge.edu\)](#).

[8] [Adult Education – TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia](#)

[9] [TCSG Administrative Data](#)

[10] [release\\_policy/accelerationpartnerships 03182021.pdf \(ga.gov\)](#).

[11] [TCSG Administrative Data](#)