

Literacy has been a pervasive social issue centered around access, or lack thereof, for centuries. As the world has evolved and grown, so have our approaches to literacy. When Literacy Services of Wisconsin (LSW) first started in 1965, literacy education was identified as a necessary intersection of the movements of the day. It mirrored a period of increasing workforce growth, economic transformation resulting from automation, and policies targeting the alleviation of poverty. Access was created and expanded through service and volunteerism, and our literacy efforts flourished. As LSW responded, the world continued to evolve. Other literacy organizations emerged to support the vast need, and post-secondary institutions, such as MATC, began dedicating resources to adult students who needed literacy support.

The internet, computers, smartphones, and the pandemic have been revolutionary in how we communicate and share information in the 21st century. In 1993, as the encyclopedia officially started to shift to a digital format, all fields of education slowly took note and considered what role technology would play in the longevity of our practices. Technology moved much quicker than the curriculum could, and now we have added artificial intelligence to the mix. Adult education has gone through several iterations in the last two decades, and there is still more work to be done. Undoubtedly, the world will continue to change, and adult literacy will continue to be a critical need for our community to thrive in the foreseeable future.



Literacy Services is effective. Year after year, LSW leads the state in our ability to support student academic growth and increase overall literacy levels. This is proven by aggregated data that includes all the primary providers in Wisconsin. Effective adult education means leaning into LSW's Guiding Principles that encourage us to 1) put students first and foremost, 2) purposefully partner to support students holistically, 3) recognize the diversity of our students and foster inclusion by creating spaces that are accessible and honor the individual needs of those who trust us with their educational goals, and 4) always think courageously as we continue to live our mission. Literacy is essential, and we take our mission seriously.

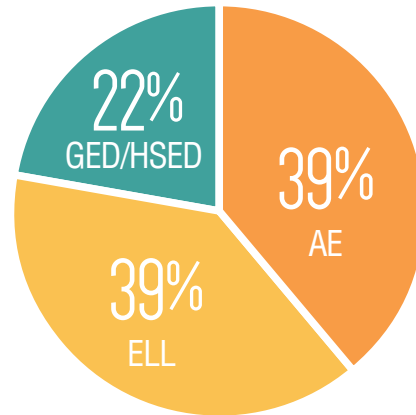
Literacy Services creates pathways between each step of our students' academic journeys toward reaching their goals. Our program areas of Adult Education, English Language Learning, and GED/HSED Certification are offered in a variety of formats: online learning, one-on-one tutoring, small group instruction, classroom instruction, and workshops.

While our adult education programming is for those 18.5 years old and above, our program also benefits their families and the greater community, creating a cyclical impact. This ripple effect results in a far more significant impact on the community than on just the hundreds of adult students served because adult literacy is interconnected to all of the defining characteristics of a healthier community.

STUDENTS & VOLUNTEERS



Enrollment by Program



- Adult Education (AE)
- GED/HSED
- English Language Learning (ELL)

1,398
Total Students

64,878
Total Student Hours

37,930
Total Virtual Hours

50%
Students Are Parents

241
GED/HSED Grads

64
GED/HSED Grads in Corrections Programming

27
Integrated Education & Training HSED Grads

75%
Reached Enrollment Goal of HSED/GED

68 Countries
Represented in ELL

270
Total Volunteers

7,662
Volunteer Hours

\$266,846
Volunteer Value

Give, volunteer, and learn more at literacyservices.org