



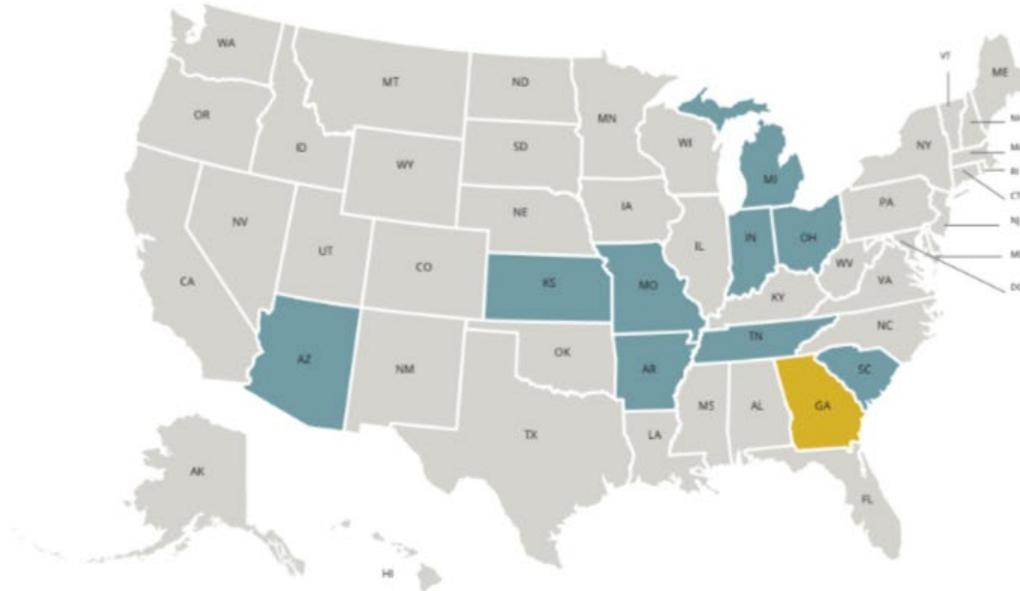
Introduction to Graduation Alliance and  
the Adult Workforce Diploma Program

NC Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
*Tuesday, February 10, 2026*





# Adult Diploma Programs



<b>ARIZONA</b>	Office of Economic Opportunity
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	Department of Education
<b>GEORGIA</b>	Technical College System of Georgia
<b>INDIANA</b>	Department of Workforce Development
<b>KANSAS</b>	USD 112 Central Plains & USD 367 Osawatomie
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
<b>MISSOURI</b>	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
<b>OHIO</b>	Ohio Department of Education & Workforce
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	Department of Employment and Workforce
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	Dekalb County School District



**118,000**

North Carolina **adults 18-24** years old  
without a high school diploma

**915,000**

North Carolina **adults 25+** years old  
without a high school diploma

**That's almost as many North Carolina dropouts as people living in Charlotte.**



## THE SOLUTION

Creating a pay-for-outcomes adult workforce diploma policy model that works alongside existing adult education programs.

### OUTCOMES-BASED PAYMENT STRUCTURE

- Credits earned
- Employability skills certifications
- Workforce credentials
- Graduation

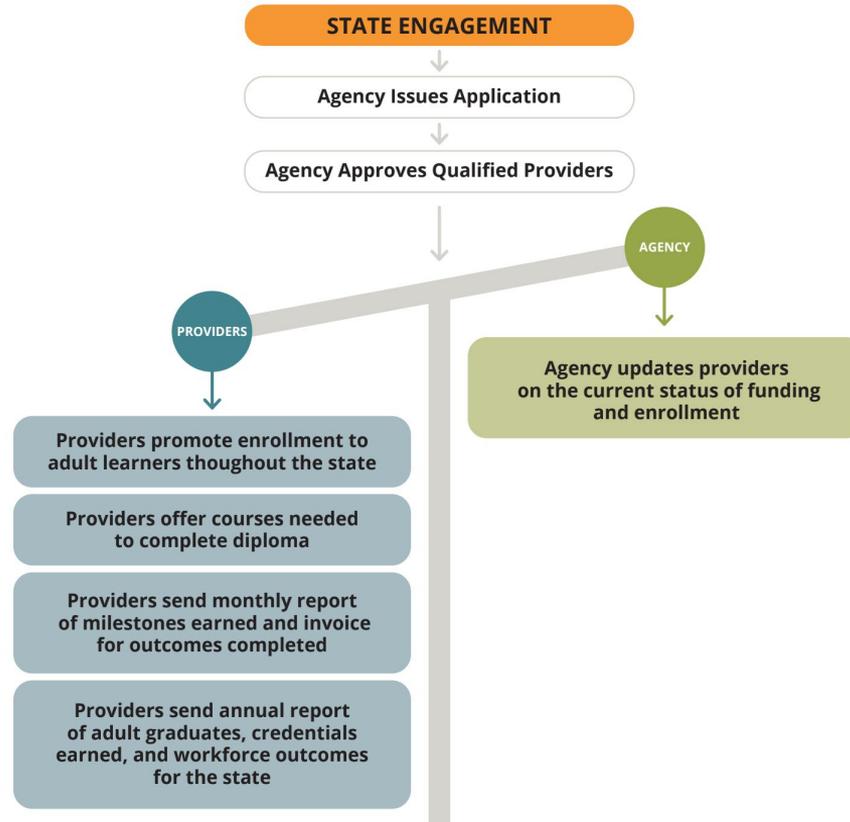
### OPEN PROVIDER SPACE

- Online, in-person, and hybrid modalities
- Regional accreditation

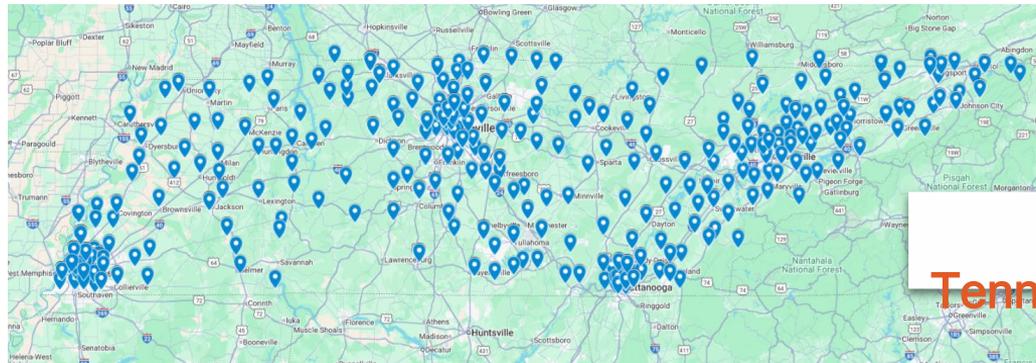
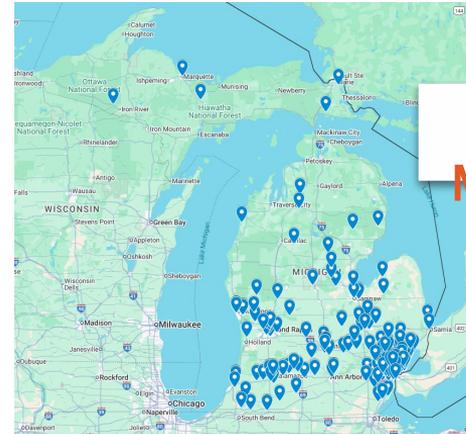
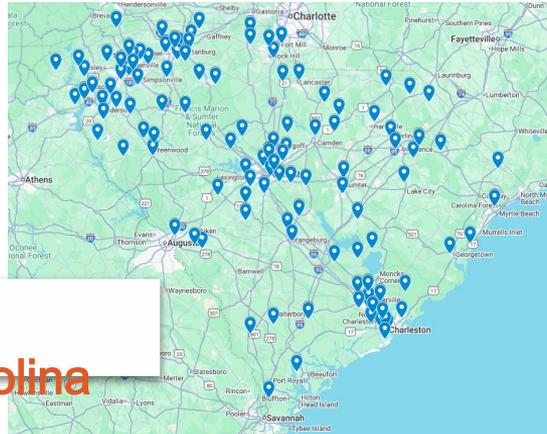
### ACCOUNTABILITY

- Maximum average spend of \$7,500 per graduate

# Program Administration: How it Works

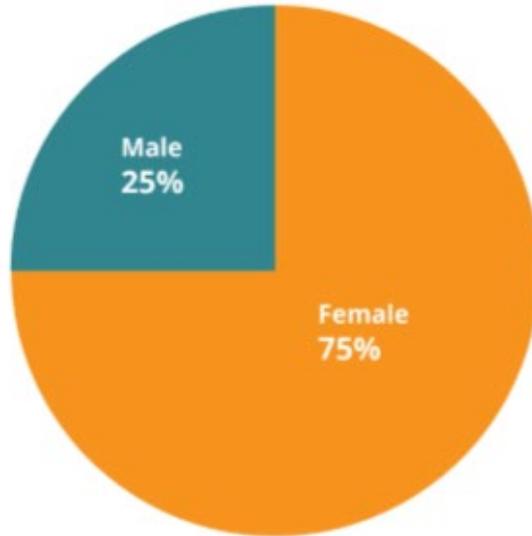


# Enrollment Geographic Distribution

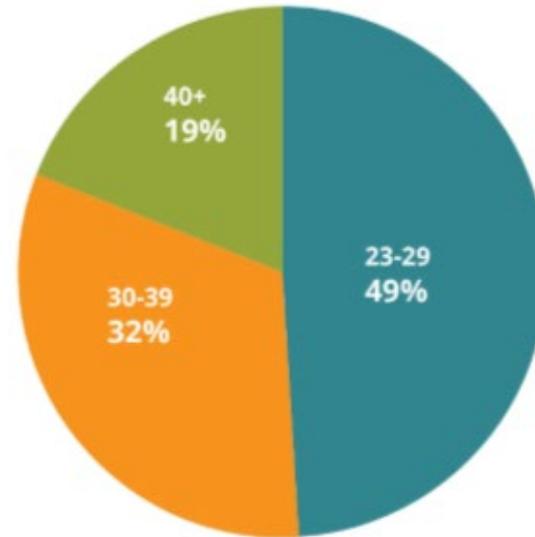


# Adult Learner Demographics

## Gender



## Age



# South Carolina Adult Learners by the Numbers



**217**

Currently Enrolled Students



**561**

Graduates



**68%**

Graduation Rate



**734**

Employability  
Certificates



**39**

Workforce  
Credentials\*



**0.83**

Average Credits  
Per Month



**\$5,562**

Cost Per Graduate

**75%** Ages 22-39 Years Old

**81%** Female

# National Adult Learners by the Numbers



**4,222**

Currently Enrolled Students



**15,376**

Graduates



**57%**

Graduation Rate



**8,317**

Employability  
Certificates



**1,620**

Workforce  
Credentials\*



**0.68**

Average Credits  
Per Month



**\$5,732**

Cost Per Graduate

**81%** Ages 22-39 Years Old

**74%** Female

# South Carolina Adult Diploma Workforce Outcomes

These outcomes are from surveying adult graduates of Graduation Alliance's South Carolina Workforce Diploma Program.



**73%**

Work in High Demand Field  
(Healthcare, Construction,  
Transportation, Manufacturing)



From

**30%**

To

**48%**

Increase in Health Insurance  
Coverage



From

**67%**

To

**74%**

Increase in Labor Market  
Participation



**25%**

Enrolled in Post-Secondary  
Education



From

**\$16.<sup>03</sup>**

To

**\$20.<sup>23</sup>**

Average Increase in Hourly Wage –  
Program Start vs. Post-Graduation



**60%**

Better Job or Raise  
Post-Graduation

# National Adult Diploma Workforce Outcomes

These outcomes are from surveying adult graduates of Graduation Alliance's Workforce Diploma Programs.



**61%**

Work in High Demand Field  
(Healthcare, Construction,  
Transportation, Manufacturing)



From

**21%**

To

**44%**

Increase in Health Insurance  
Coverage



From

**60%**

To

**78%**

Increase in Labor Market  
Participation



**17%**

Enrolled in Post-Secondary  
Education



From

**\$15.<sup>77</sup>**

To

**\$19.<sup>73</sup>**

Average Increase in Hourly Wage –  
Program Start vs. Post-Graduation



**60%**

Better Job or Raise  
Post-Graduation

There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to how Graduation Alliance works with community colleges in different states.

- In Ohio, Graduation Alliance supports six community colleges who serve as approved providers for the state's AWD program.
- In Georgia, the Technical College System will serve as the administering agency for the state's Adult Workforce Diploma (AWD) program signed into law in 2025.
- In all states, we are able to market and direct students to the state's adult education program that best fits each learner's individual needs.

# Student Testimonials



Michael C. | Ohio



Martisa A. | South Carolina

"I've told myself, 'better late than never,' and man, is that true! My mom was a big supporter, my kids were **so excited Mommy was in school**, and my oldest was **so proud of his mom for finishing** — despite having him so young. It has taught my kids that their own pace is okay."

—Victoria G. | Indiana





**QUESTIONS**  
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**Graduation  
Alliance™**