

Adult Education and Literacy in Boston

Boston Adult Literacy Initiative

Who We Are

Founded in 1983 by the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services (JCS), ALI is a coalition of thirty-two adult education and literacy programs funded by JCS and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education located in 15 neighborhoods that comprise the city of Boston.

What We Do

Provide basic skills that prepare people to enter the workforce, higher education, and job training.

Who We Serve

A diverse constituency of Boston area native-born Americans and immigrants who lack the educational credentials, English language skills, and math proficiency to compete in today's global economy.

Services

Our organizations offer services that help adults obtain the skills needed to succeed in the workforce.

Job Readiness Class

strengthens oral and written communication, teamwork, professionalism, customer service, and punctuality while helping job seekers prepare resumes and job applications, and improve their interviewing skills.

Workplace Education

provides customized on-site services for employees who are committed to improving their English, communication, computer or customer service skills.

Computer Literacy Class

provides basic technical skills required in today's economy. Skills include word processing, keyboarding, data entry/management and Internet-based research.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

helps immigrants improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing so they can become more productive workers, citizens and community members.

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

provides a range of educational services from basic literacy and math to high school equivalency and adult diploma programs.

Transition to College

provides the necessary reading, writing, math and time management skills for adults to make successful transitions to higher education.

The Boston Adult Literacy Initiative (ALI) member agencies comprise 15 neighborhood coalitions. Each coalition, in partnership with other local community-based organizations, employers, and public agencies, works to improve the quantity and quality of services for adult learners.

Allston-Brighton Adult Education Coalition

Charlestown Collaborative

Chinatown Community Educational Partnership

Dorchester Adult Literacy Coalition

Downtown Initiative for Adult Literacy

East Boston Adult Education Coalition

Hyde Park/West Roxbury Adult Literacy Group

Jamaica Plain/Egleston Square Adult Education Network

Mattapan Adult Education and Literacy Coalition

North End/West End Community Planning Coalition

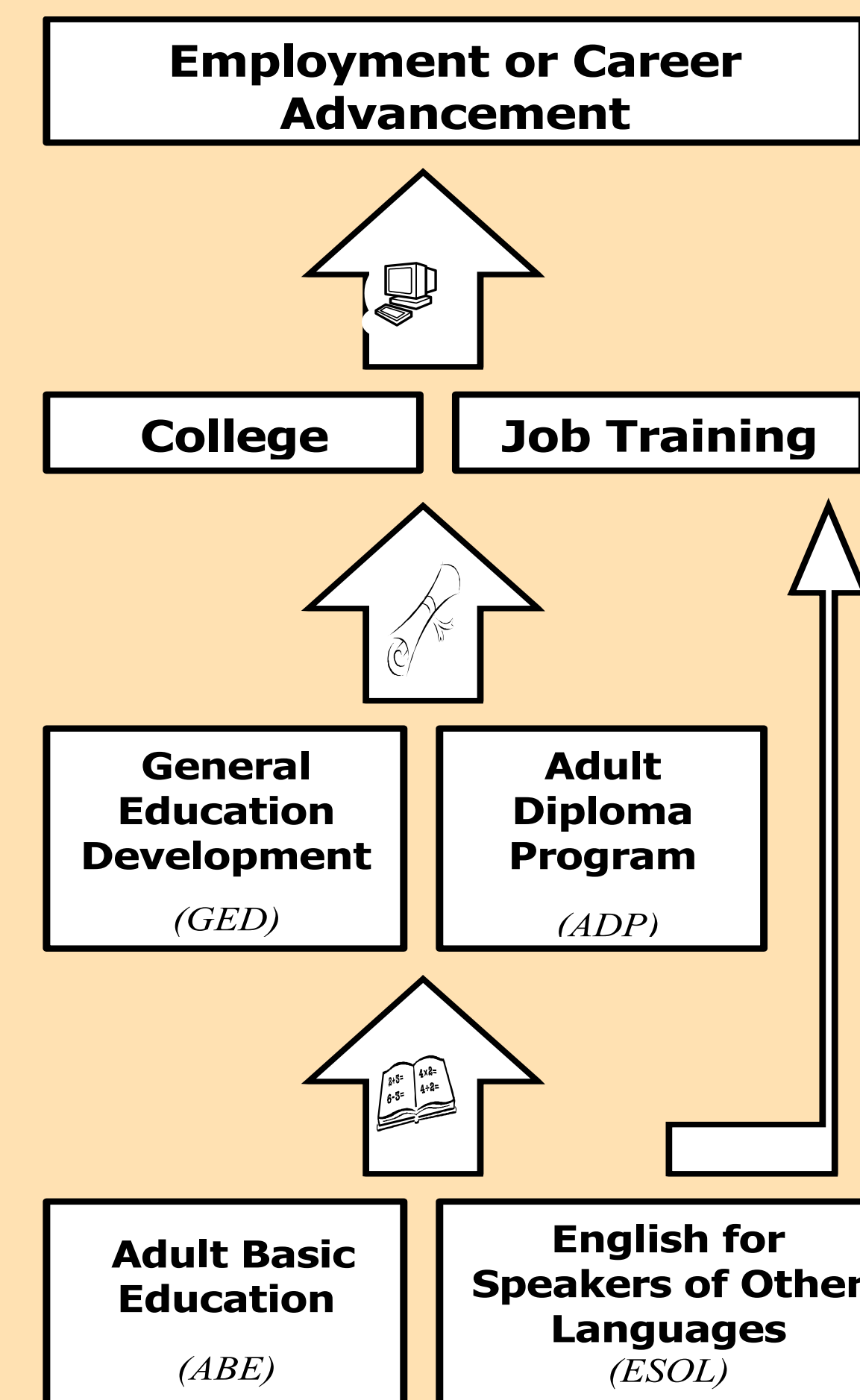
Partnership for Adult Learning Services **Fenway / Kenmore / Mission Hill**

Roslindale Adult Literacy Community Planning Group

Roxbury Adult Literacy Coalition

South Boston Coalition for Adult Education and Employment

South End Adult Education Coalition



Did You Know?

- > More than 6,500 adults in Boston are currently enrolled in Adult Education classes (25,000 statewide).
- > Full time, year-round workers in the U.S. with a bachelor's degree earn 1.8 times the earnings of high school graduates.
- > At the start of kindergarten, children from "literacy-rich" homes have higher reading skills than other children.
- > Inmates with at least 2 years of college education have only a 10% re-arrest rate compared to 60% nationwide.
- > 68% of incarcerated adults have a literacy level below the 8th grade.
- > 1 in 5 Bostonians over 25 does not have a high school diploma.
- > 1,400 students drop out each year from Boston Public Schools.

- > One-third (1.1 million) of workers in Massachusetts do not have the basic skills needed to perform in the rapidly changing economy and need Adult Education services.
- > 55% of Massachusetts families headed by single women who are high school drop-outs are living below the poverty line.
- > 1 in 3 Boston immigrants over 25 does not have a high school diploma.
- > 26% of Bostonians are foreign-born.
- > 33% of Bostonians speak a language other than English in their home.
- > Average wait for Boston's Adult Education classes, including English classes, is 6 months to 3 years.
- > There are 5,500 Boston residents currently awaiting a seat in English classes, adult basic education classes, or GED classes.