



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

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To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Employment Coordinators, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, Staff Development Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	New York State Education Department (NYSED) Adult Education Resources
Effective Date:	Immediately
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Attachments:	None

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social services districts (districts) of resources for individuals interested in adult education, including high school equivalency (HSE) and English as a Second Language (ESL). These resources, available through the New York State Education Department (NYSED), are designed to help connect learners to educational opportunities so they can earn the basic skills and credentials necessary to be successful in today's workforce.

NYSED organizes adult education programs into seven regions. Technical assistance and professional development for adult education providers in each region is delivered by one of seven regional centers known as the Regional Adult Education Network (RAEN). Currently, two of the RAEN Centers (Capital North Country—CNC and Central Southern Tier—CST) are overseen by State Staff, who provide technical assistance and coordinate professional development. Collaborative efforts are presently happening to continue the work of RAENs in CNC and CST.

To learn more about each of the seven RAEN centers, visit NYSED's [Regional Adult Education Network](#) webpage. To search for an adult education program by region, visit NYSED's [Find an Adult Education Program](#) webpage. This webpage also includes a list of adult education provider agencies organized by RAEN region.

NYSED also operates Literacy Zones (LZ), which are intended to close the achievement gap in urban and rural communities of concentrated poverty and high concentrations of families and individuals with limited literacy or English language proficiency. Literacy Zones services cater to families and children.

Some of the resources provided by LZ's are:

1. Adult Education Programs: Referral to Adult Education Programs
2. Health Literacy: Assistance with applying for health insurance, health clinic referrals, and assistance with developing a healthy meal menu for a family
3. Financial Literacy: Assistance with opening a bank account, completing a family budget, applying for earned income credit, and information on how to access credit scores
4. Functional Literacy: Including digital literacy, resource on how to open an email account, navigate bus/subway system successfully, and assistance with computer literacy skills attainment
5. Family Literacy Parenting: Tools and guides for improving children's literacy, Head Start, and parent education classes
6. Community Outcomes: Participation in fundraisers, and information on how to volunteer time within civic organizations
7. School Relations: Awareness of school meetings, information on how to access online school accounts for children's classes, meeting with teachers/school officials, and assistance with helping children with homework
8. Social Services: Resources on how to apply for food benefits, housing assistance, and food banks
9. Workforce Readiness: Tools on accessing career pathways, career planning, and resume preparation
10. Legal Services: Information on resources on rental agreement review
11. Citizenship: Information on registering to vote and participating in political support plans

For information on where to locate one of the 67 Literacy Zones, please visit the LZ webpage [Literacy Zones & Family Welcome Centers](#). Additional resources for adult learners are available at [Adult Education Programs and Policy](#).

The NYSED's [High School Equivalency](#) website provides information on the four pathways to an HSE diploma, which include: the HSE Exam (which is the GED Test); the HSE Exam-Regents pathway; 24 College Credits and the National External Diploma Program (NEDP).