

South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
123 W. Missouri Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
dlr.sd.gov

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Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Recognized

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) invites South Dakotans to recognize the annual Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Sept. 22-28. This week emphasizes the importance of reading, writing, and math in society.

South Dakota’s unemployment rate is only 2.9 percent, and businesses and employers lack a skilled workforce. Compounding the challenge, nearly 60,000 adults do not have a high school diploma or equivalency.

“An educated workforce is essential to expanding the economic growth of South Dakota,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “A basic education is the foundation for successful and meaningful employment.”

DLR has established partnerships with seven providers to offer Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) services in 16 locations. A distance learning option is available to increase access to those in rural areas or for those who need a flexible schedule.

Providers offer classes including workforce preparation activities, high school equivalency test preparation, integrated education and training, English language acquisition, and civics education.

“Classes are customized to meet the needs and interests of adult learners, creating an engaging and relevant classroom environment,” said Secretary Hultman. “This has been a successful model for many of our students.”

In the 2018 program year, 393 adult education participants earned their GED® credential and nearly 1,000 individuals earned a measurable skill gain.

For more information regarding the Adult Education and Literacy programs, visit www.sdjobs.org.