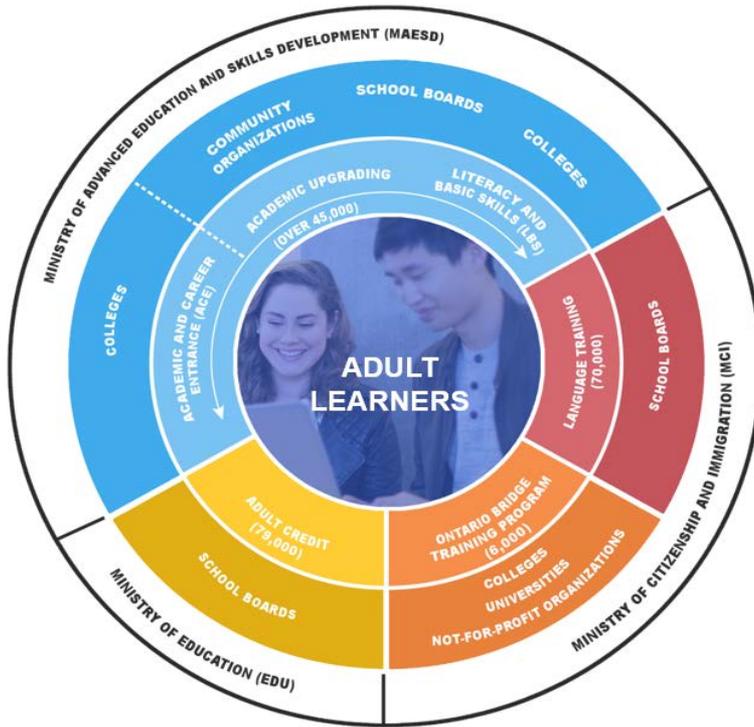


# An Overview of the Adult Education System

**Lifelong Learning Advisory Committee**

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# Overview



- Three ministries share stewardship for the adult education system: the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD), the Ministry of Education (EDU), and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI).
- These three ministries work closely with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).

# Who are Adult Learners?

- For the purpose of the multi-ministry work to strengthen adult education, **adult learners** can be understood as a diverse group who are seeking to develop foundational skills and include:
  - adults who are completing secondary school or are upgrading their learning in order to enter postsecondary education, apprenticeship training, or employment;
  - Immigrants, including internationally trained professionals and tradespeople, who want to improve their language skills, upgrade their workplace skills, or establish Canadian equivalency of foreign credentials to prepare for better job opportunities and more active participation in society;
  - Indigenous people seeking to upgrade their skills in culturally appropriate settings that allow them to remain connected to their communities;
  - francophone learners who want to achieve their goals through programs in their own language;
  - people with disabilities who want to obtain the skills they need to participate more fully in the workplace or in their communities, including Deaf and Deafblind learners who want to upgrade their skills in their own language and in culturally appropriate settings;
  - workers, including self-employed professionals, seeking to update their skills and knowledge to meet the demands of the workplace or economy and/or to prepare for a career change;
  - individuals who want to move toward greater self-sufficiency and independence.
- Importantly, adult learners span a range of income sources (e.g., employment, social assistance, other government benefit programs) and connections to the labour market (e.g., employed, unemployed, precariously employed).

# Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

## Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS)

### Age

- 27% of learners are between 19-24 years old
- 44% of learners are between 25-44 years old
- 22% of learners are between 45-64 years old

### Language

- 85% of learners speak English as their at-home language
- Approximately 8% of learners are French-language users

### Education Level

- 49% of learners have not completed high school

### Income Source

- 43% of learners receive income assistance (Ontario Works, ODSP, EI)
- 26% of learners receive income through employment

### Employment Status

- 35% of learners are employed at the start of LBS training
- 53% of learners are unemployed at the start of LBS training

- LBS provides literacy, numeracy, digital, and other essential skills training to adult learners.
- Approximately **45,000 learners** participate in LBS annually.
- In June 2017, the government announced a **\$185M commitment** over four years, above base funding, in LBS to provide 80,000 more adults with free opportunities to upgrade their literacy, numeracy, digital, and other essential skills.
- By 2018-19, an additional 14,000 (planned) learners will have been able to upgrade their skills due to the \$185 commitment.
- **Academic Upgrading** and **Academic and Career Entrance (ACE)** are important components of the adult education system offered through Ontario colleges, and they help support entry into apprenticeship and college.

# Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

## Language Training

### Age

- 5% of learners are between 19-24 years old
- 48% of learners are between 25-44 years old
- 36% of learners are between 45-64 years old

### Immigration Status

- 56% of learners are permanent residents
- 25% of learners are naturalized Canadian citizens
- 15% of learners are refugee claimants

### Highest Level of Education

- 53% of learners have completed post-secondary education
- 29% of learners have completed high school
- 18% of learners have not completed high school

### Years in Canada

- 32% of learners have been in Canada for more than 10 years
- 21% of learners have been in Canada for 5-10 years
- 18% of learners have been in Canada for 2-4 years
- 29% of learners have been in Canada for less than 2 years

- Language Training, which is offered in both ESL and FSL, is designed for adult immigrants.
- Approximately **70,000 learners** participate in Language Training annually.
- In the 2016-17 school year, there were about 4,400 ESL/FSL courses available in approximately **325 locations** across the province.

## Ontario Bridge Training Program (OBTP)

### Age

- 6.1% of participants are between 18-29 years old
- 55.5% of participants are between 30-44 years old
- 37.6% of participants are between 45-64 years old

### Immigration Status

- 62.6% of participants are permanent residents
- 32.3% of participants are naturalized Canadian citizens

### Highest Level of Education

- 34.3% of participants have completed a master's degree
- 34% of participants have completed a bachelor's degree
- 18.1% of participants have completed doctorate, medical, or a other health-related postgraduate degree

### Employment Experience

- On average, participants have had 10 years of work experience in their occupation before coming to Canada

- Bridge Training helps highly skilled, internationally trained immigrants to obtain a licence and employment in their field without having to duplicate previous training and education.
- Approximately **6,000 participants** are involved in Bridge Training annually.
- In Budget 2017, the government committed **\$7M in 2017-18** and ongoing to the OBTP. This funding increase brings the annual program budget to \$23.2M.

# Ministry of Education

## Adult Credit

### Age

- 54% of learners are between 19-24 years old
- 37% of learners are between 25-44 years old
- 9% of learners are between 45-64 years old

### Birthplace

- 54% of learners were born in Canada (43% non-Indigenous; 11% Indigenous)
- 46% of learners were born outside of Canada

### Language

- 75% of learners listed English as their first language spoken
- 3% of learners listed French as their first language spoken
- 22% of learners have a first language that is neither English nor French

### Income Source

- Approximately 66% of adult learners receive some form of income assistance

### Employment Status

- Approximately 33% of adult learners are reported as being employed

## General Educational Development (GED)

### Age

- 40.3% of test takers are between 19-25 years old
- 29.9% of test takers are between 26-35 years old
- 15.1% of test takers are between 36-45 years old
- 11.1% of test takers are between 46-64 years old

### Language

- 99% of test takers are English
- 0.7% of test takers are French

- The GED test certification is offered in Ontario by the TVO Independent Learning Centre and provides an alternative “fast-track” option for adults to obtain an Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate.
- Approximately **2,800 learners** completed the test series in 2015-16, with a pass rate of 68%.

- Adult Credit offers secondary school courses for adults that provide credit towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and/or prerequisite credits needed for admission to postsecondary education programs.
- Approximately **79,000 learners** participate in Adult Credit annually.
- More than **8,000 secondary school diplomas** are granted annually through adult day, alternative, continuing education, night and summer schools and the Independent Learning Centre.
- **Dual Credit** programs are ministry-approved programs that allow students who face the greatest challenges while they are still in secondary school to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards the OSSD and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, degree or a Certificate of Apprenticeship.
- Additional funding in 2017-18 enabled adults to participate in this program, with 48 approved programs involving 22 colleges, 55 school boards, and 857 approved participants.

# Ministry of Community and Social Services

- There are two social assistance programs in Ontario: **Ontario Works** and the **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)**.
- ODSP is directly delivered by MCSS through 47 local ODSP offices, and Ontario Works is delivered locally through 47 municipal service managers and 101 First Nation delivery partners.
- While MCSS does not directly administer programs in the adult education system, the two social assistance programs play a pivotal role in supporting learners who pursue adult education:
  - Many adult learners receive social assistance through Ontario Works or ODSP. For example, approximately 23% of LBS learners receive income through Ontario Works and 12% of LBS learners receive income through ODSP.
  - To be eligible for Ontario Works, individuals must participate in employment assistance activities. These activities could include education programs such as LBS, Adult Credit, and Language Training.
  - Ontario Works Administrators support participants' access to employment assistance activities through a variety of approaches, including providing in-house, contracting directly with services providers or referrals to community services.
  - ODSP Employment Supports is delivered by 150 community service providers who provide a range of employment services, including employment preparation and job development, conducting assessments, and making appropriate referrals to other services such as adult education programs.
- As part of the multi-ministry work to strengthen adult education, MCSS is working with MAESD, EDU, and MCI to explore new approaches for connecting social assistance recipients with adult education programs and eligible adult learners with social assistance programs.