Adult Learner Initiatives Update

Prepared for CPE's Council on Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee
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Adult Learners in the Strategic Agenda

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Who are Kentucky's Current Adult Learners?

The majority of are younger adults. Sixty percent are between the ages of 25 and 34
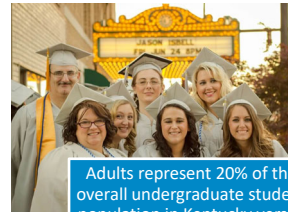

The majority (60%) are female.

Underrepresented minority students make up 18% percent of the adult learner population in Kentucky

Adult students are more likely to attend part-time (62%)

Of those adults who have financial aid records, 45% are from low-income backgrounds and half (49.5%) have dependent children.

Adults represent 20% of the overall undergraduate student population in Kentucky versus 32% a decade ago

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Source: KPEDS. This data represents unduplicated enrollment counts at KY public and AIKU institutions. Low-income and having children were determined with 2019-20 financial aid file data and does not include AIKCU students.

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Steady Decline in Enrollment Across Sectors for Adult Learners

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
2-Year Public	47,983	45,808	41,497	37,201	31,643	29,994	28,141	27,367	26,821	22,252
4-Year Public	20,227	19,973	19,192	18,293	16,871	15,794	14,350	13,103	11,994	11,522
4-Year Private	7,134	6,684	6,330	4,634	4,381	4,113	4,370	4,369	4,496	4,277
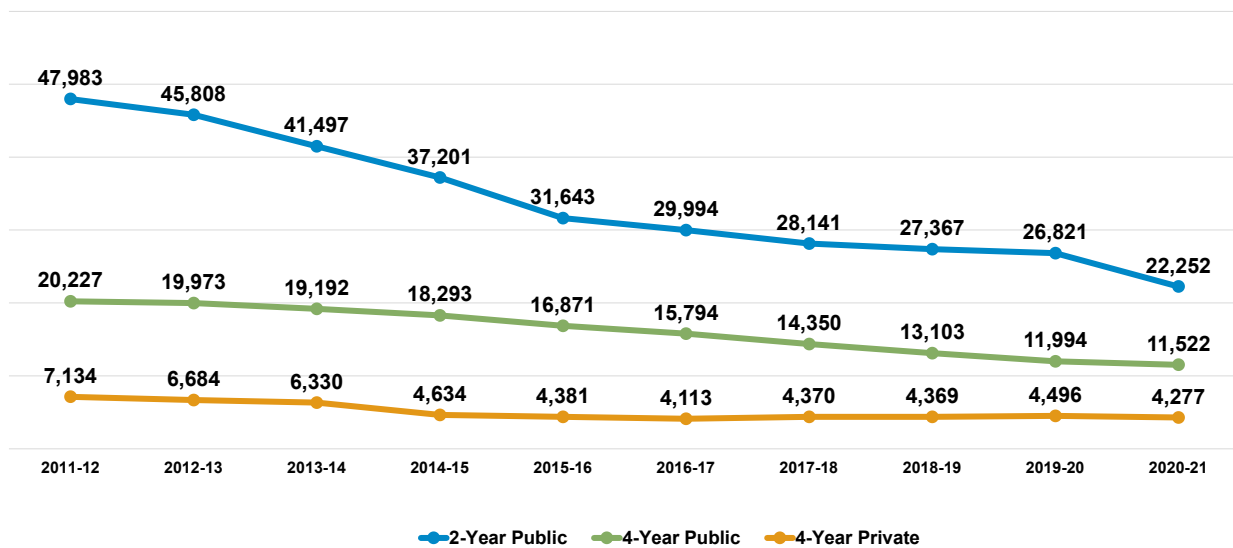
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Source: KPEDS. Unduplicated undergraduate enrollment counts at KY public institutions and AIKCU institutions.

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Potential Adult Learner Market in KY

Age 45 to 64
- 414,923
- 232,820
- 105,155

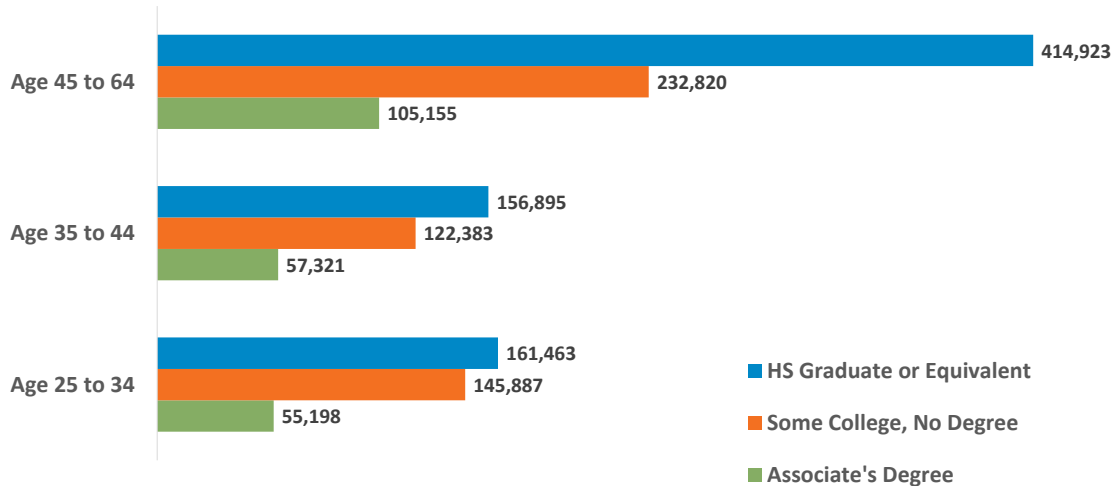**Age 35 to 44**
- 156,895
- 122,383
- 57,321

Age 25 to 34
- 161,463
- 145,887
- 55,198

Legend:
- ■ HS Graduate or Equivalent
- ■ Some College, No Degree
- ■ Associate's Degree

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Diving into the Data on Adult Learners

There are approximately **230,000 Kentucky adults** between the ages of 25 and 39 who:

- Are not currently enrolled in postsecondary education
- Do not have a degree
- Are currently in the workforce
- Are making less than $35,000 annually, substantially less than the median income in Kentucky.

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-19 American Community Surveys (Public Use Microdata Samples)

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Objectives of '21-'22 Attainment Academy Work

- Develop strategies to engage/reengage Kentucky adults in the workforce through accessible, high quality, high value postsecondary programs.

- Establish a common vision and set of objectives with our state partners to guide this work.

- Build a common understanding of current "assets" in Kentucky supporting adult learners and build on these in our future work.

CPE
higher Education Matters

Moving Up:
An Action Plan to
Improve Economic Opportunity
for Kentucky Adults
Through Lifelong Learning

Prepared by the Kentucky Council
on Postsecondary Education

September 2022

Recommendations from 'Moving on Up' (selected)

- Launch statewide information portal with specific adult-learner information

- Partner with data analytics organization to more precisely identify prospective adult learners

- Evaluate codifying a statewide approach to credit for prior learning, beginning with military credit

- Pursue funding to re-launch and expand Project Graduate to provide supports for students returning to higher education

- Evaluate potential metrics for addition to the Strategic Agenda, specific to adult learners

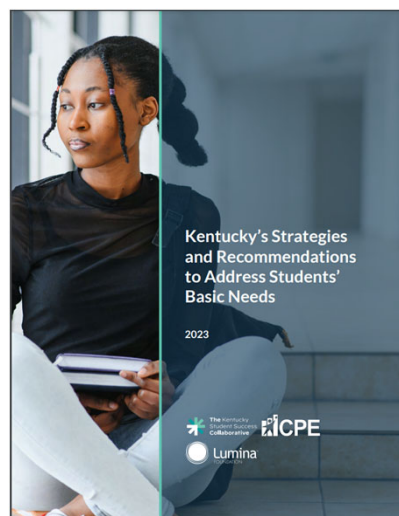- Explore community-based ambassador models and their sustainability

Key CPE Initiatives Aligned with Adult Learner Strategy

- Update inventory of flexible academic programming offered by KCTCS & public 4 year campuses

- Launch the Innovative Scholarship Fund

- Identify gaps in student basic needs programming and support expansion of programs and services

- Establish partnerships with regional healthcare provider organizations through Healthcare Workforce Collaborative

- Explore the inclusion of an adult-focused metric in Kentucky's postsecondary performance-based funding model

- Prepare for a pilot project with 2 institutions to conduct student journey mapping to better understand the barriers to adult learners from admission to matriculation

- Convene a Credit for Prior Learning workgroup or Community of Practice

- Explore strategies to limit the use of transcript withholding

- Partner with Kentucky Adult Education to improve pathways between KYAE programs and postsecondary programs

Highlight of Selected Work: Student Basic Needs

- With support from the Lumina Foundation, convened workgroup to focus on strategies to understand and address student basic needs issues

- 3 key project components:
    - Data analysis with KYSTATS
    - Student Voice Research Project
    - Policy Scan and Stakeholder Interviews

- Produced 8 recommendations and 5 critical success factors for ongoing work

Kentucky's Strategies and Recommendations to Address Students' Basic Needs

2023

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