

## Colorado Ranks 39<sup>th</sup> out of 45 Reporting States on Ratio of Adult Education/Family Literacy Teachers to Population in Need of Services

The capacity of a state's adult education and family literacy programs to serve the population in need of their services is largely determined by the ratio of the number of AEFL teachers to the size of that population.

Using data reported to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 45 of the 50 states can be ranked on the number of AEFL teachers per 1,000 of the population age 25 & over without a high school diploma. With an estimated 315,000 adults who did not graduate from high school and only 460 AEFL teachers, Colorado ranks 39<sup>th</sup> among those 45 states, with only 1.46 teachers per 1,000 non-graduates. (Notably, this is a very conservative estimate of this ratio, as, in every state, there are many between the ages of 16 and 24 who also need AEFL services. Data required to include them in these calculations are not readily available.)



Washington State ranks first on this ratio with more than nine teachers (9.01) for every 1,000 adult Washingtonians without a high school diploma. In fact, three of the other four top-five states on this ratio are in the western half of the nation (i.e., Kansas, South Dakota, and Montana.)

The top ten is rounded out Massachusetts, which has almost four teachers (3.55) for every adult without a diploma.

The median value on this ratio—reported for both Rhode Island and Florida—is 2.15 teachers for 1,000 state residents who did not graduate from high school.

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To match Washington State's number-one ranking, with 9.01 AEFL teachers per 1,000 adult non-graduates, Colorado would need 2,838 teachers, or another 2,378.

To bring Colorado up to the Massachusetts level of 3.55 AEFL teachers per 1,000 adult non-graduates, the state would need 1,118 teachers—or an additional 658.

To reach the middle of this ranking (2.15 per 1,000 adult non-graduates, from both Rhode Island and Florida), Colorado would need 677 teachers—or 217 more than the 460 reported by 2005.

Even if unprecedented funding were to become available, the processes of recruiting and/or educating and training additional teachers would take many years.

However, Colorado's adult education and family literacy community has a long history of resourcefulness and is focused on opportunities for developing and retaining its existing workforce, as well as creating accessible pathways into the profession of adult education. Toward those ends, the State's Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy has initiated two teacher quality projects: the Literacy Instruction Authorization (LIA) and a new professional development system. The LIA is a CDE credential that authorizes instructors to teach in adult education programs. It provides a system to ensure a well-qualified workforce and is a gateway into the profession of adult education. The Colorado Adult Education Professional Development System (CO-PRO) is designed to maintain and enhance the existing adult education workforce, while ensuring that adult learners in Colorado have well-prepared and highly qualified teachers.

For more information about these programs visit the CDE website at:

Colorado Adult Education Professional Development System (CO-PRO)  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/PDIndex.htm>

Literacy Instruction Authorization (LIA)  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/LIAIndex.htm>

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Source: Unpublished data. Bureau of Labor Statistics data available at: <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes253011.htm>.  
U. S. Census Bureau data available at:  
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2005.htm>.(Table13.)

**State Rankings on Adult Education/Family Literacy Teachers per 1,000 Non-High School Graduates, 2005**

State	Total population age 25 & over	Age 25 & over without high school diploma (thousands)	Adult education/family literacy teachers	AEFL teachers per 1,000 non-high school graduates	Rank
Washington	4,035	343	3,090	9.01	1
Connecticut	2,377	238	1,430	6.02	2
Kansas	1,698	146	730	5.00	3
South Dakota	483	56	280	5.00	4
Montana	609	48	210	4.36	5
Vermont	423	42	180	4.26	6
North Carolina	5,427	868	3,530	4.07	7
Wisconsin	3,604	346	1,300	3.76	8
Minnesota	3,365	246	890	3.62	9
Massachusetts	4,281	535	1,900	3.55	10
Alaska	393	33	100	3.07	11
New Hampshire	853	69	210	3.04	12
New Mexico	1,211	228	690	3.03	13
California	22,676	4,444	13,140	2.96	14
Nebraska	1,118	114	330	2.89	15
Mississippi	1,811	366	970	2.65	16
Virginia	4,798	672	1,770	2.64	17
Illinois	8,068	1,033	2,630	2.55	18
New York	12,643	1,808	4,320	2.39	19
Arizona	3,699	525	1,210	2.30	20
Georgia	5,478	783	1,720	2.20	21
New Jersey	5,753	754	1,640	2.18	22
Rhode Island	694	112	240	2.15	23
Florida	11,967	1,580	3,390	2.15	24
Maine	889	114	240	2.11	25
Arkansas	1,833	341	710	2.08	26
Indiana	4,007	513	1,040	2.03	27
Wyoming	330	30	60	2.00	28
Oregon	2,379	271	540	1.99	29
Tennessee	3,830	697	1,310	1.88	30
Pennsylvania	8,209	1,125	2,060	1.83	31
Missouri	3,715	539	960	1.78	32
Ohio	7,333	887	1,540	1.74	33
Iowa	1,929	197	340	1.73	34
Michigan	6,509	742	1,240	1.67	35
Oklahoma	2,235	331	540	1.63	36
Maryland	3,706	485	780	1.61	37
Kentucky	2,656	560	860	1.53	38
Colorado	2,946	315	460	1.46	39
Nevada	1,563	209	280	1.34	40
Texas	13,750	2,998	3,980	1.33	41
South Carolina	2,685	456	600	1.31	42
Alabama	3,004	574	640	1.12	43
Louisiana	2,808	556	410	0.74	44
West Virginia	1,228	215	120	0.56	45

Data unavailable for Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, North Dakota, and Utah.