



## Education Goals Can Brighten 2009

### FACT SHEET

December 19, 2008

#### Education of Missouri's Workforce

Of Missouri's 3,640,679 working-age adults, 2,528,064 (69.4 percent) have not completed college (associate's degree or higher). Of these...

- 1,189,877 have completed high school without ever starting college.
- 875,086 have completed some college.
- 30,986 speak little or no English.

*Source: Missouri Profile of Adult Learners 2008, produced by The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). For the full report, visit [www.cael.org/adultlearninginfocus.htm](http://www.cael.org/adultlearninginfocus.htm).*

- *Missouri Profile of Adult Learners: [http://www.cael.org/pdf/state\\_profiles/MISSOURI.pdf](http://www.cael.org/pdf/state_profiles/MISSOURI.pdf)*

#### Missouri Division of Workforce Development

Each year, Missouri provides employment and training services to an average 200,000 job-seekers, 30,000 employed workers and more than 8,000 businesses through the state's network of 46 Career Centers, 12 community college districts, SHARE Network Access Points, and the MissouriCareerSource.com on-line job matching Web site.

Through these programs, between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, Missouri invested a total of \$87,708,503 in career assistance services and training for customers who subsequently contributed almost \$3.1 billion in earnings and capital investment to Missouri's economy.

Between July 1 and Oct. 31, 2008, 41,890 people received Missouri Career Center services.

Contact: Mike Waltman, manager of policy and communications, Missouri Division of Workforce Development, 573-526-8267, or e-mail [mike.waltman@ded.mo.gov](mailto:mike.waltman@ded.mo.gov).

- *Division of Workforce Development: [www.workforce.mo.gov](http://www.workforce.mo.gov)*
- *Missouri Career Centers: [https://worksmart.ded.mo.gov/documents/view\\_one.cfm?ID=1334&menuID=6](https://worksmart.ded.mo.gov/documents/view_one.cfm?ID=1334&menuID=6)*

#### It's Not Too Late to Enroll for January!

Most community colleges and other open-admission institutions will enroll new students through the first week of classes. Check with local schools to find out their deadlines.

#### Missouri GED® Test

The 2007 GED Testing Program Statistical Report indicates the targeted population of adults in Missouri without a high school diploma is 756,515 (approximately 15-17% of state population). This number includes those aged 16 or above without a high school diploma, further training or degrees and not enrolled in an educational program.

More than 9,000 Missourians earn their GED certificates each year, and most say their strongest motivation is to continue their education. Of those surveyed last year by the General Educational Development (GED®) Testing Service, more were interested in attending a two-year college (29 percent) than a four-year college (25 percent) or a technical or trade program (19 percent).

Nearly 80 percent of Missouri GED candidates successfully passed the test in fiscal year 2008.

Contact: Bill Poteet, GED administrator, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 573-751-1249, or e-mail [bill.poteet@dese.mo.gov](mailto:bill.poteet@dese.mo.gov)

- *GED Testing Facts: [http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/ged\\_facts.htm](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/ged_facts.htm)*

- *2007 GED Testing Program Statistical Report:*  
[http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GED\\_TS&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=28184](http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=GED_TS&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=28184)

### **GED Fast Track Program**

A new Missouri GED Fast Track course is available to Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) programs across the state. The prep course in DVD format is designed for adult individuals who are preparing for the GED (General Educational Development) Tests. The course can be completed within 15 classroom hours or less. It is intended for use at Missouri AEL programs with the on-site guidance of an instructor. It includes a targeted review of math, writing, science, social studies and reading skills for students. It includes a workbook and teacher's guide for the AEL instructors. Copies of the Missouri GED Fast Track course also are available at state libraries.

Contact: Theresa Noellsch, AEL supervisor, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 573-751-1248 or e-mail [theresa.noellsch@dese.mo.gov](mailto:theresa.noellsch@dese.mo.gov).

### **Missouri Adult Education & Literacy Program**

Missouri's AEL programs serve adults 16 years or older who are no longer in high school. Program staff and volunteers help those who may feel behind in academics, literacy or employability skills. They also help individuals prepare for the GED, ACT and other exams, improve literacy levels, and prepare for postsecondary education. Most AEL programs also teach English as a second language and serve not only individuals and families but also employee groups. The state's AEL programs are administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and funded through Title II of the Workforce Investment Act.

- For fiscal year 2008, the Missouri Adult Education and Literacy Program served a total of 52,484 students.
- The age breakdown for fiscal year 2008 for students who stay 12+ hours in an AEL Program:

Age	16-18	19-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Total	3,401	9,066	15,304	4,755	951

Contact: Ron Jewell, AEL Program Director, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 573-526-4822, or e-mail [ron.jewell@dese.mo.gov](mailto:ron.jewell@dese.mo.gov)

- *AEL class sites:* [http://www.dese.mo.gov/div/careered/ael\\_mo\\_program.htm](http://www.dese.mo.gov/div/careered/ael_mo_program.htm)

### **Distance Learning**

Distance learning is a good option for a lot of adults interested in continuing their educations because it offers flexible scheduling and removes geographical barriers. Look for distance learning opportunities at individual school websites.

An online GED Test preparation program is available to adults enrolled in AEL programs. It provides instructions and prepares individuals to take the GED exam.

- Missouri GED Online: [www.gedonlineclass.com](http://www.gedonlineclass.com)

### **FAFSA Application Deadlines**

April 1 is the deadline for submitting the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This federal form is required of all students who want to be considered for federal student assistance. Student financial assistance awards in Missouri (including Access Missouri grants) are also based on information supplies on the FAFSA. More information is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

### **Additional Resources**

- [www.back2college.com](http://www.back2college.com) Geared specifically to adult students, this Web site contains information for students re-entering college.
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.collegescholarships.com](http://www.collegescholarships.com) Two free scholarship-search services. Searches available for both traditional and non-traditional students.
- The Missouri Department of Higher Education provides a list of online resources that may be helpful for adult, non-traditional students at [www.dhe.mo.gov/ntlinks.shtml](http://www.dhe.mo.gov/ntlinks.shtml).