

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS



Communities are stronger when the general population is literate and educated.

An educated community is made up of people who have the ability to read, complete high school, attend community colleges, receive degrees (BA, MA, PhD) and continue their education (certificates, trainings, conferences, online courses) throughout their lives. To improve the educational success of a community, people need

access to education and to see education as a value.

Higher education levels equate to higher economic growth, higher wages via competition and promote entrepreneurship.² Increased education levels stimulate innovation in communities.

A more literate and better-educated population has a lower incarceration rate, due to an increased access to greater opportunities. Higher levels of literacy lead to less accidents on the job because people can understand warning signs. Participating in education allows individuals to develop and practice critical thinking skills and work in teams collaboratively. Higher education levels lead to more parental involvement in a child's education, which is a key to a child's success in school. Higher skills are connected to higher rates of volunteerism and civic engagement.³ An educated community is characterized by successful outcomes.

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES EQUAL STRONGER COMMUNITIES

- Adults and children can access the highest level of education and/or training we want to achieve.
- Individuals understand the value of opportunities, choices and decisions.
- People have understanding and support for their learning.
- Individuals advocate for their own and their children's education.
- People have an opportunity to engage in learning on a consistent basis.
- Individuals demonstrate unlocked potential and the abilities one has.

STRATEGIES

Access to and participation in education is the key to educational success. Education must be valued as a tool for betterment, affordable, and convenient- i.e., offered

at varied times and locations. To change people's education levels, people must be able to read flyers advertising classes, talk to experts about the benefits of additional schooling and share information across networks.

Individuals with stronger literacy skills will be better informed about opportunities, and:

- enroll in community college classes to invest in a career;
- make the choice to commit additional hours to education for longer-term benefits;
- support their children by participating in school activities;
- participate in a training to develop on-the-job skills;
- use information in parenting pamphlets to support their children's development on a regular basis.

"I was afraid to talk to teachers and doctors of my children because I did not understand or speak English. To me it was and is very important to speak and understand English, because I have 2 children in Elementary and Middle School. Now I can speak with the teachers about my children's progress and how to help them. I am so happy because I can do many things for myself and I can help my kids. "

- Patricia, *Linkages to Learning*

ENGLISH LITERACY MAKES OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER

If a learner is in class for 6 hours a week for 40 weeks a year, he or she can...

IN A FEW MONTHS :

- Read a class schedule
- Write a sick note to a child's teacher in English

IN A YEAR OR TWO:

- State education goals in English (I want to be a nurse. I need to study health and math.)
- Read a schedule or course catalog in English

IN TWO OR THREE YEARS:

- Participate in a parent-teacher conference.
- Participate in on-the-job training in English as long as many visuals are used
- Read letters in English from the school with some assistance.
- Help a middle school student with homework.

FURTHER READING:

2. "Making Skills Everyone's Business A Call to Transform Adult Learning in the United States." (2015) *U.S. Department of Education*. Feb. 2015. Web. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/making-skills.pdf>

3. Hernandez, Donald, and Jeffrey Napierala. "Mother's Education and Children's Outcomes: How Dual-Generation Programs Offer Increased Opportunities for America's Children." *Mother's Education and Children's Outcomes* (2014): n. pag. July 2014. Web. <http://fcd-us.org/sites/default/files/MothersEducationandChildrensOutcomesFINAL.pdf>