

California is Failing Adult Learners; Harming Today's and Future Workforce



Affordable and Flexible 100% Online College Programs Are Key to Opening the Door to Higher Education for Single Parents

California is last in the nation for adults in need of education... We Can Do Better

- California ranks last in the nation with over half of adults (57%) needing more adult education according to a 2018-2019 Strada-Gallup Education Consumer Survey of adults 18-65 with less than an associate degree and who were not currently enrolled in college courses.
- California faces a shortfall of over two million degrees and certificates to meet employers' needs and promote economic mobility for its residents. [Source](#)
- 64% of California adult learners have some college, but no degree (63% of single mothers and 49% of single fathers) – while over a third of California adult learners wanted to pursue adult education, but never got the chance.

Working and single parents are seeking higher education opportunities.

- 6.8 million Californians aged 25-54 have a high school education but no college diploma – and 57% of those Californians have dependent children. [Source](#)
- One of every two (49%) California single fathers and over one-third (39%) of single mothers who do not have a college degree are likely to pursue adult education in the near future.*
- 88% of single parents surveyed said they are interested in pursuing higher education because it will lead to a better job and higher income.*
- California students of color are more likely to be parents, including 25% of Native American students and 22% of Black students. [Source](#)

Increased access to financial aid for online learning will help more single parents return or enroll in a college program.

- 64% of single fathers and 43% of single mothers surveyed would be interested in some kind of college or adult career education if barriers such as affordability and flexibility were removed.*
- Overwhelmingly single parents (86% of single mothers and 85% of single fathers) surveyed said that financial aid or scholarships is a priority to return to college. Furthermore, 84% of single mothers and 74% of single fathers prioritized the need for an affordable college program due to tight budgets.*

Increased access to flexible online courses is key to helping more single parents return or enroll in a college program.

- The single most common reason cited for having stopped pursuing higher education was difficulty balancing studies and work at the same time for adults ages 25 to 64 with some college background but no degree. [Source](#)
- 87% of single mothers and 81% of single fathers surveyed said it would be easier to attend a college program that had a flexible course schedule that could be taken any time or day.*
- 58% of single mothers and 70% of single fathers would definitely/very likely enroll in a “100% online” college program if its available now, where “you can do your class work from home any day of the week or hour of the day and move at your own pace.”*

Join CAL Network: Support Creating New Higher Educational Opportunities for Parents & California Adult Learners

CAL Network (California Adult Learners Network) is a coalition advocating for a new state grant program for California adult learners who need financial support and the flexibility of online courses to attain higher education for more lucrative and rewarding careers while strengthening California's skilled workforce. For more information, go to www.CAL-Network.com.

* Heart+Mind Strategies completed n=1065 interviews with a representative sample of Californians with some or no college matching age, gender, and ethnicity of the US Census for California. Additional oversample interviews were conducted with key groups, including: veterans, single mothers/fathers, foster children, rural residents, low-income rural residents, Asians, 1st and 2nd generation immigrants. Respondents participated via an online survey conducted June 15 to July 20, 2021.