

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 Communities of Color

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 – while over a third of California adult learners wanted to pursue adult education, but never got the chance.

People of color are seeking higher educational opportunities.

- 80% of first generation immigrants surveyed said they are interested in pursuing higher education because it will lead to a better job and higher income.*
- About 27% of Black Americans and 19% of Latinx and Native Americans completed bachelor's degrees, compared to 42% of their white counterparts. [Source](#)
- Black Americans constitute 11.1-11.8% of the student body in older cohorts compared to the 8.7% of the student body Black Americans comprise of in "traditional" age cohorts. [Source](#)
- 42% of Black Americans, 58% of Latinx Americans and 50% of Native Americans age 25 and over have only a high school degree, compared to 3% of white Americans. [Source](#)

Increased access to flexible online courses is key to helping more communities of color 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](#)
- 75% of Black and Latinx students who are disproportionately left out of college would benefit from increased 100% online education options.*
- 73% Asian Pacific Islanders surveyed said that a flexible course schedule to fit into their own schedules is a priority making it easier to attend a college program.*
- 56% of Asian Pacific Islanders surveyed said that it would be easier to attend a college program that was online rather than having to travel to a class.
- *62% of Asian Pacific Islanders would likely enroll into a 100% online college program.**

Join CAL Network: Support Creating New Higher Educational Opportunities for Communities of Color

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.