



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

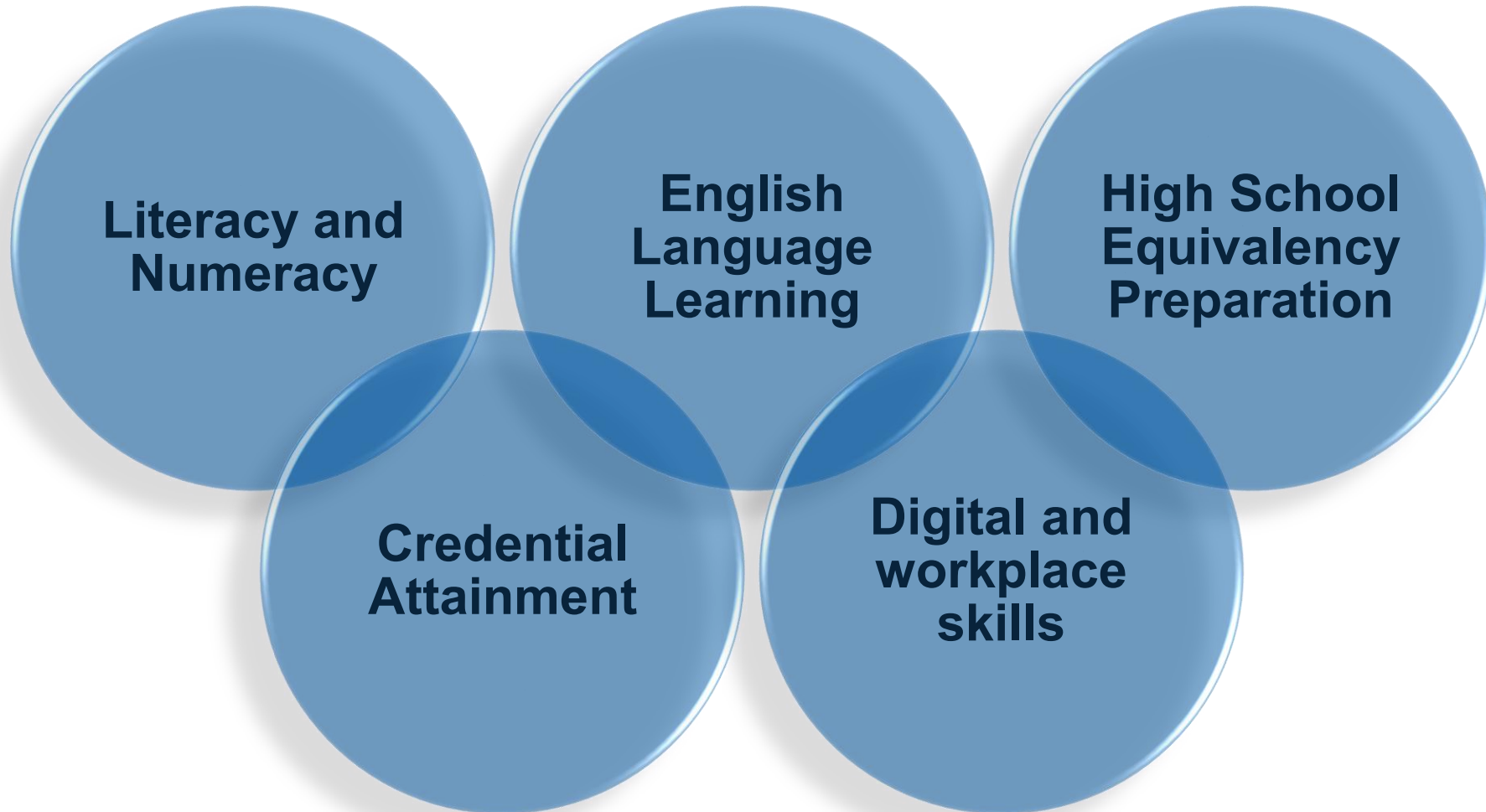
Adult Education in New York: Empowering Individuals and Strengthening Communities

January 2026

Board of Regents Meeting



Adult Education Programs



Adult Education Data

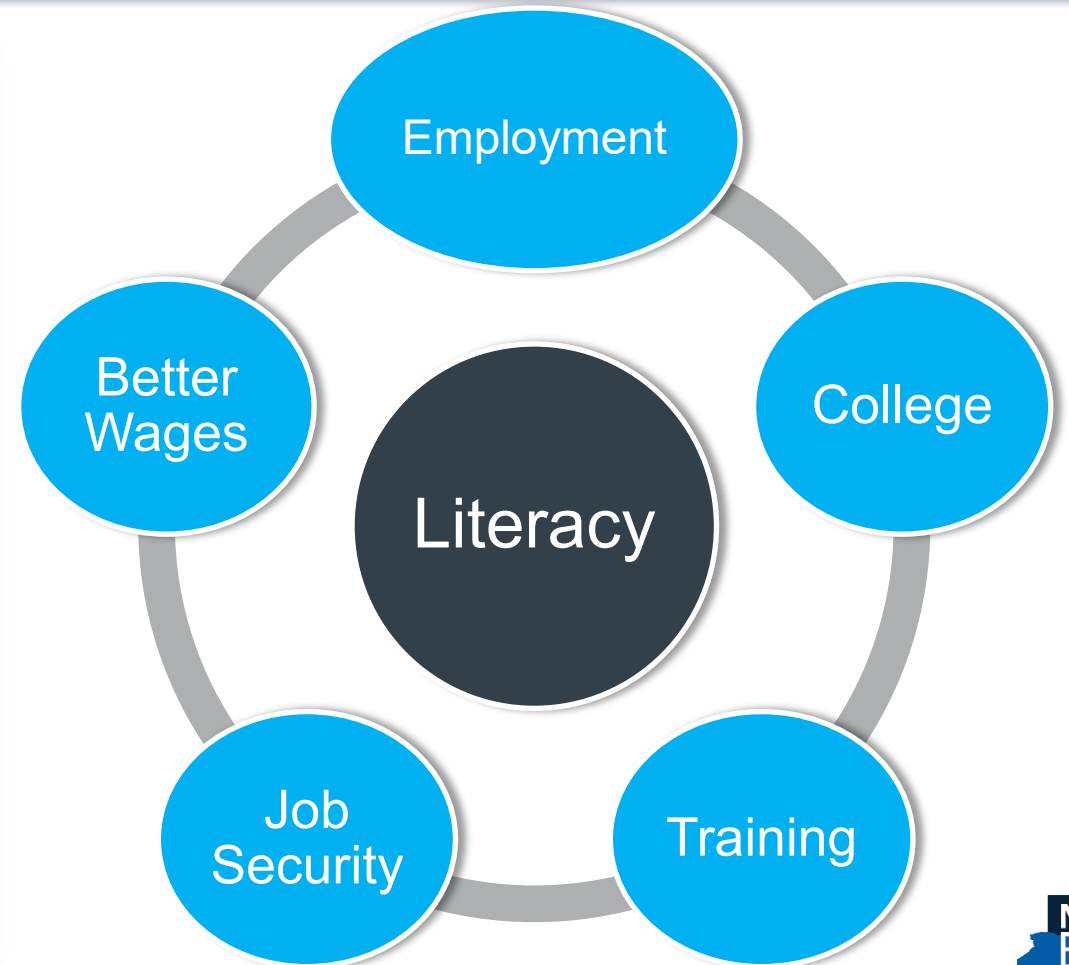
National Data

- Literacy - 59 million adults have literacy skills at or below Level 1 (lowest level)
- Numeracy - 72 million adults have numeracy skills at or below the lowest level
- 1 in 5 employees in the workforce are newcomers to the U.S.
- 46% of people new to the U.S. are not proficient in English
- 25% of newcomers do not have a high school diploma

New York State Data

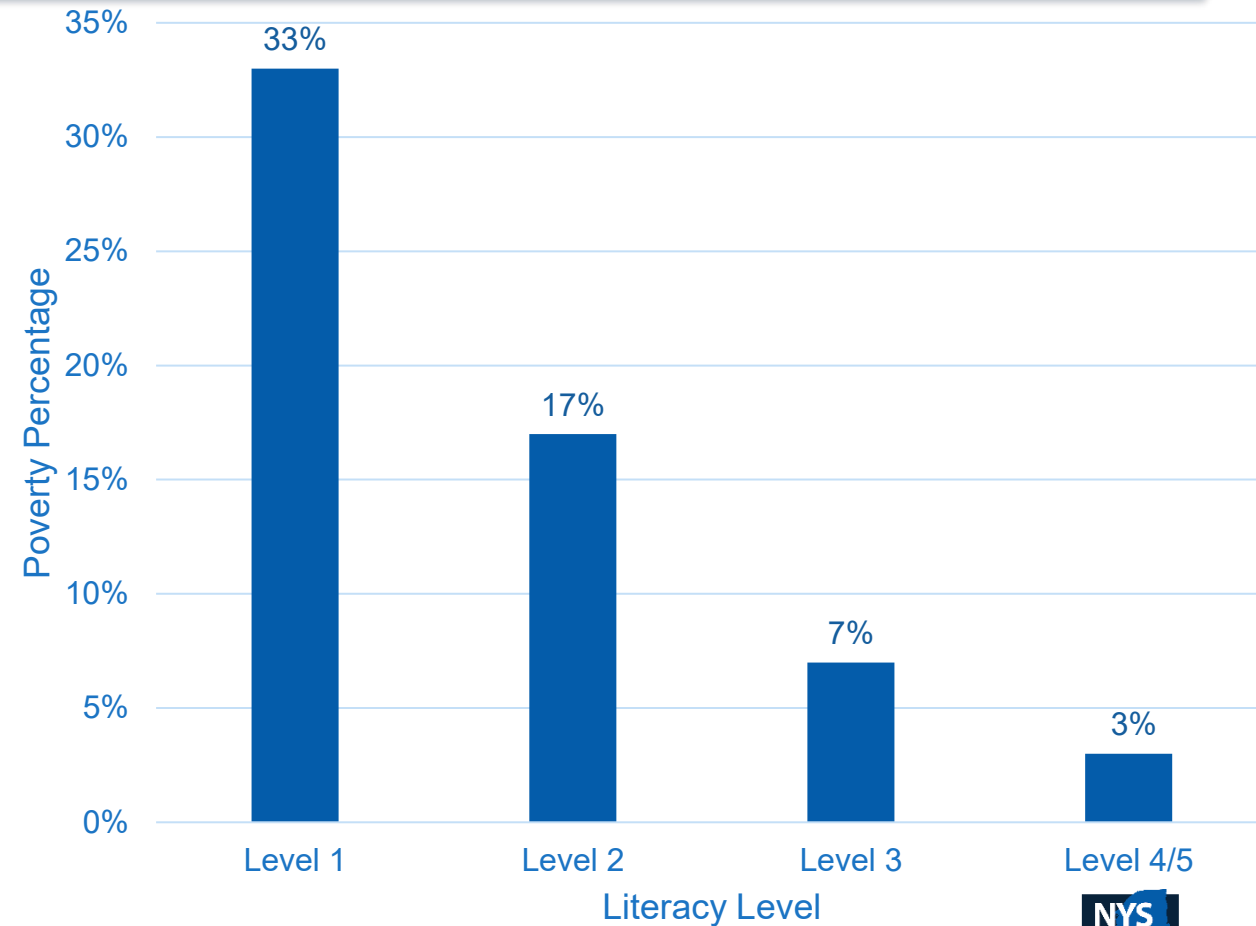
- 1.6 million New Yorkers lack a high school diploma or equivalency
- 1.8 million New Yorkers have limited English proficiency
- Many working New Yorkers face barriers to career advancement

Literacy and Employment

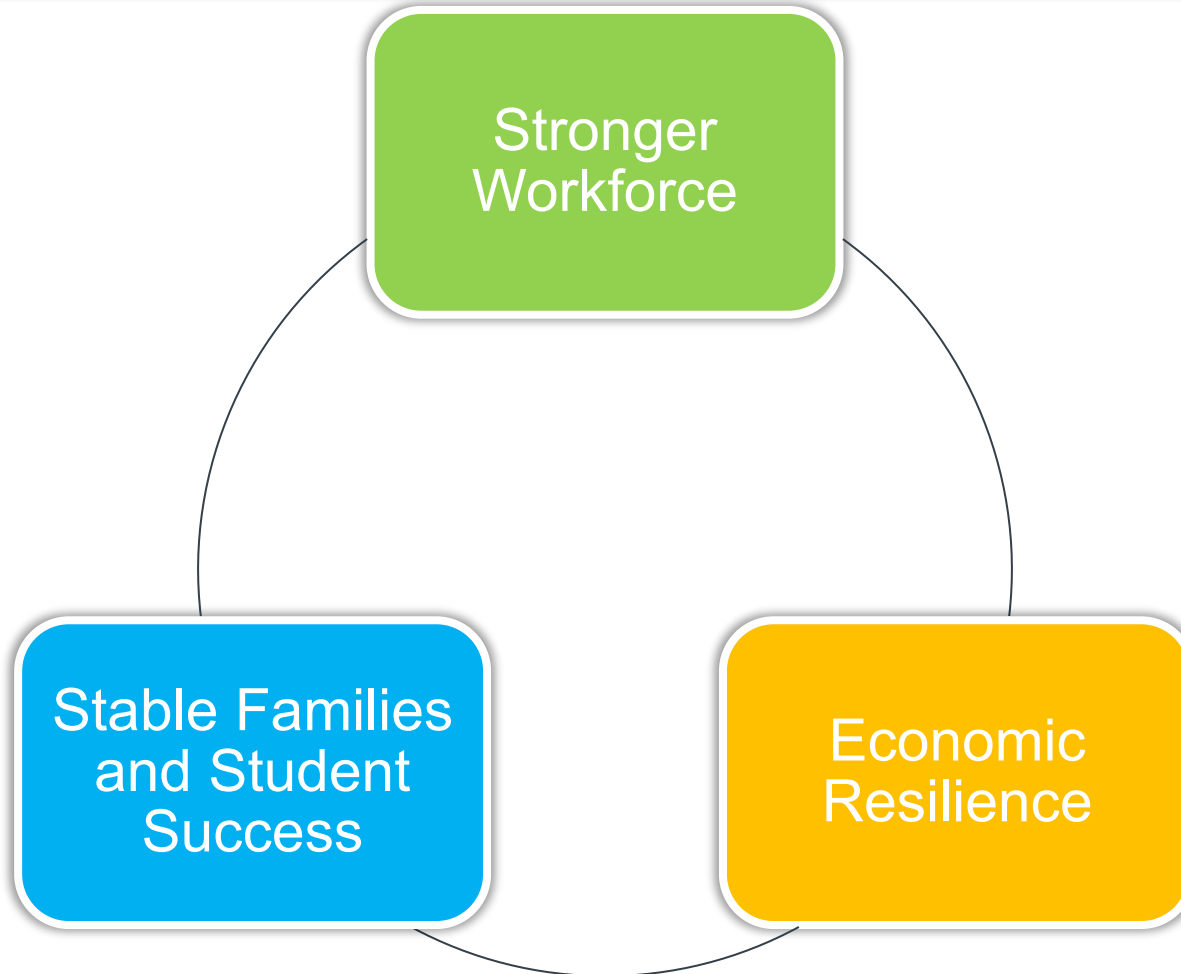


Decreasing Poverty

Increasing a person's literacy skills by just one level significantly decreases poverty rates.



Community Impact



Economic Impact

U.S. Economy

- \$300 billion
- Lost of potential earnings
- Lower workplace productivity
- High cost associated criminal justice system and social services

Health Care

- \$215 billion
- Lack of health insurance
- Emergency room visits
- Prescription drug cost

P-20 Impact

Parent reading level is the greatest determinant of the academic success of children.



Adult Education Success Stories

Courtney

Noraima

Myo Myo



Questions?



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