



MAACCE

COMMUNITY
ADVOCACY
ACTION • VOICE • CHANGE





Who is MAACCE?



MAACCE

Missouri Association for
Adult Continuing and
Community Education

Mission statement:

The Missouri Association for Adult Continuing and Community Education focuses on lifelong learning by enhancing the growth and development of professionals with diverse roles as they address the changing needs of their communities.



Bylaws

- Advocacy: This committee shall consist of the committee chair and at least one member from each of the categories when possible. The committee shall develop and implement a procedure for increasing awareness of legislative issues and actions affecting adult, continuing and community education. The Advocacy Committee chair will present a legislative awareness update at the annual MAACCE conference.



Advocacy

Merriam - Webster:

The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal

Google:

the act of publicly supporting, pleading for, or defending a cause, policy, or individual



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How is your program funded?

AEL - WIOA

After School - 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Total Grant Funding = Federal 66% + State 34%

Local Education Agencies: Colleges, K-12 schools, Non-profit organizations



How is your program funded?

Federal: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

- Title I: Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth under US DOL
- Title II: Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
- Title III: Wagner-Peyser Act - American Job Centers
- Title IV: Vocational Rehabilitation



Why Advocate? Why Now?

Funding is in

JEOPARDY!

“Skinny Budget”

Missouri Association for
Adult Continuing and
Community Education



Advocacy History



COABE

The Voice Of Adult Education



History of Missouri AEL Advocacy Committee

- **March 2025**
 - “Skinny Budget” - \$0.00
- **July 2025**
 - Funding withheld
 - Committee Formed
- **September 2025**
 - Flood the Hill



Washington D.C. - COABE Flood the Hill

8 MAACCE Members Packed their bags and flew to the Nation's Capital

Netty Doyle

Julie Johns

Wendy Kline

Barb Rieder

Tony Savage

Alice Whalen

Caitlyn (Student Ambassador)

Lindsay Woods





MAACCE goes to Washington







Thank you to Alex in Senator Hawley's office -Adult Education. See our students, hear their voices.

Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt



MAACCE Visits Senators



MAACCE Visits Representatives

Mark Alford
Emanuel Cleaver
Sam Graves
Jason Smith



MAACCE Visits Representatives



**Wesley Bell
Ann Wagner
Bob Onder
Eric Burlison**



Missouri Goes to Washington

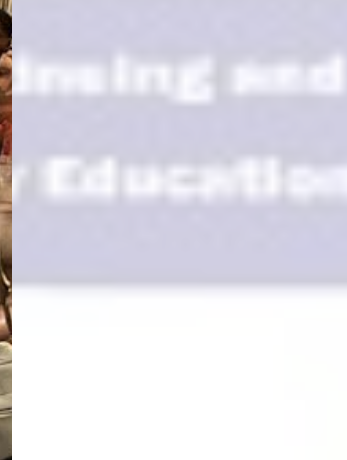
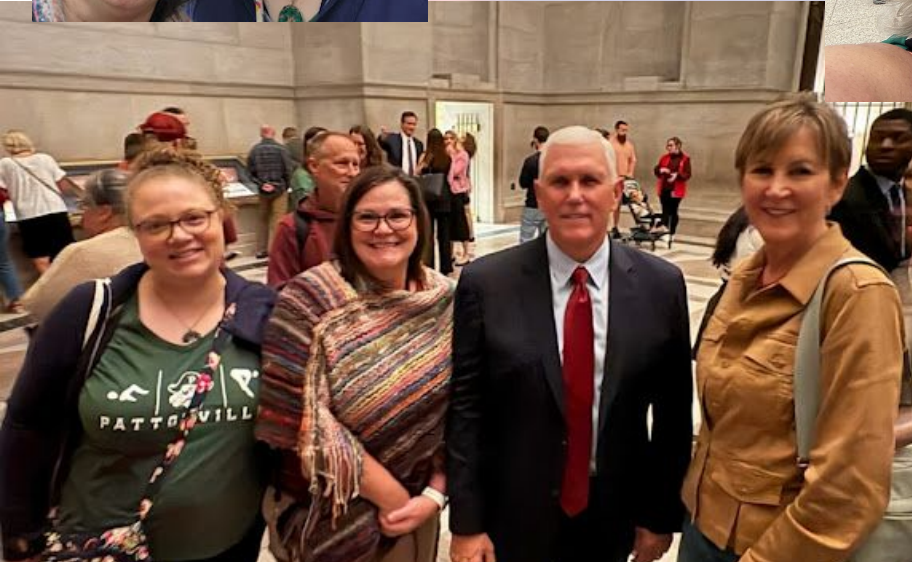




Missouri Goes to Washington



Missouri Goes to Washington



Focus Extended

Focus switched to the state level - If the federal government did not fund our programs, then we wanted to ensure state funding.

- **The Governor sends his proposed budget early January**
- **The State House and Senate have until May to approve the state budget**



November - Letters to the Governor

We the People of the United States, in order to secure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure Blessings to our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article 1.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.
No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years, and who, when elected, shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes, shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including



Follow-Up Postcards

Senators and Governor

Dear Governor Kehoe,

My name is Leonna, and I'm a student at Literacy KC. Before I started I felt lost about knowing things that dealt with the education world. Because I had to drop out to be a mom at 15 years old. So I was not able to help my child with certain things, when she needed help with school stuff. I felt like I was failing her as a mom. Then once she got to her last year of school, she didn't get to walk with her class. Because she lacked knowledge of some things. So I looked up places where we both could go. Which led me to our school (Literacy Kc). Since we started, we have been more focused on learning. We value our education more. I feel like I'm wiser now . My teacher is Godsent because she makes us feel equal. She lets us know that we can do and achieve anything. She breaks it down so well, so we can understand. I know I've chosen the right school. And it was a great decision I made. Lkc is one of the best programs for anyone, looking for a second chance or third or whatever! Because here at my school nobody is treated poorly. No matter what grade level you are on. I pray Literacy KC stays around for centuries to come.

Sincerely, Leonna



Amber

"I came from a background where school was not of importance. I wanted better for my sons and myself. I wanted to prove that you can come from nothing and make yourself a career, so studying to pass the GED at OTC did just that for me. I was able to accomplish something that I didn't think was possible. Not only did I get my GED, but I am also now a professional hairdresser living my best life. I am so grateful for the teachers and OTC itself for having such an amazing program adult education."

City Education



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Kia

"I was raised in a Mennonite church and took their 8th grade curriculum. I had dreams of furthering my education, so I took the HiSet and earned my GED. I am now at OTC studying computer information science. I'm starting my fourth semester and maintaining a 4.0 average. I was honored to be placed on the provost's list with ambition to be on the Dean's list. I was also invited into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. I can't wait to see what my future holds at OTC and beyond!"





Tegan and Trace

"My brother Trace and I both dropped out of school very young, but we always had big dreams. We decided after many years of ignoring those dreams we would take the leap and have never been happier about doing so. We both studied and earned our high school diplomas. Now we are reaching some amazing goals at OTC. I am working on a degree in behavioral health and Trace is starting his second semester in Auto Mechanics and loving it".



Missouri Legislators

In 2026, our focus was on the Missouri Legislature

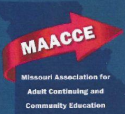


Jefferson City

January 21 - February 15 - March 25

- Meeting with Senators and Representatives
- Handouts / Postcards





MISSOURI AEL BY THE NUMBERS

12,356
STUDENTS
ENROLLED

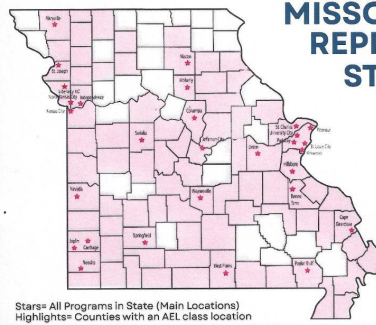
8,032
Measurable
Skills Gains

1,383
HIGH SCHOOL
EQUIVALENCIES

134
CREDENTIALS

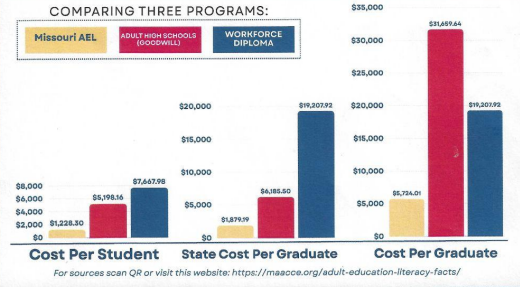
#4
IN THE U.S. FOR
MEASURABLE
SKILLS GAIN
PERCENTAGE

#3
IN THE U.S. FOR
CORRECTIONS
SKILLS GAIN
PERCENTAGE



MISSOURI AEL
REPRESENTS
STUDENTS
FROM
84
COUNTIES
112
CITIES
& TOWNS

MISSOURI AEL: THE BEST RETURN ON INVESTMENT



HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MISSOURI?

- LOWER CRIME AND RECIDIVISM
- HIGHER WAGES & TAX REVENUE
- LESS RELIANCE ON PUBLIC AID
- HEALTHIER INDIVIDUALS



so we told them.

We were surprised to learn that legislators didn't know who we were,



Follow-Up Postcards

Senators and Governor

MISSOURI ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY

THE WORKFORCE SOLUTION

WHO

- 12,356 students enrolled across 84 counties & 112 cities

WHAT

- High School Equivalency Diploma and 134 Workforce Credentials

WHY

- **An Adult Education graduate** typically earns **\$10,000** more per year.
- **Unemployment rate drops** from 5.6% to 3.9% with a high school diploma
- **Prison programs** reduce the likelihood of recidivism by 14.8%.
- **It's Cost Effective - \$1228.30 per student.**
- Employers, specifically **MAWD** (Missouri Association for Workforce Development) members want and need us.

QUESTIONS

- MAACCE Advocacy Chair, Barbara Rieder, brieder@stchas.edu

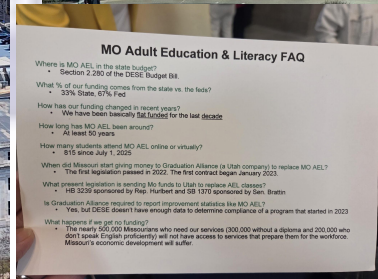
Missouri Adult Education & Literacy (AEL): The BEST Return on Investment



Programs (FY25 Data)	Requirements	# of Students	State Cost Per Student	# of Grads	State Cost Per Grad
Missouri AEL Based in MO Online & 150 locations	NONE	6592	\$396	1367	\$1907
Adult High School Based in MD 7 locations	Age restrictions	1583	\$1225	298	\$6510
Workforce Diploma Based in UT Online Only	21 and older Credits equal to a junior in HS	1494	\$2283	460	\$7415

PLEASE Keep Our Tax Dollars at Home

Jefferson City



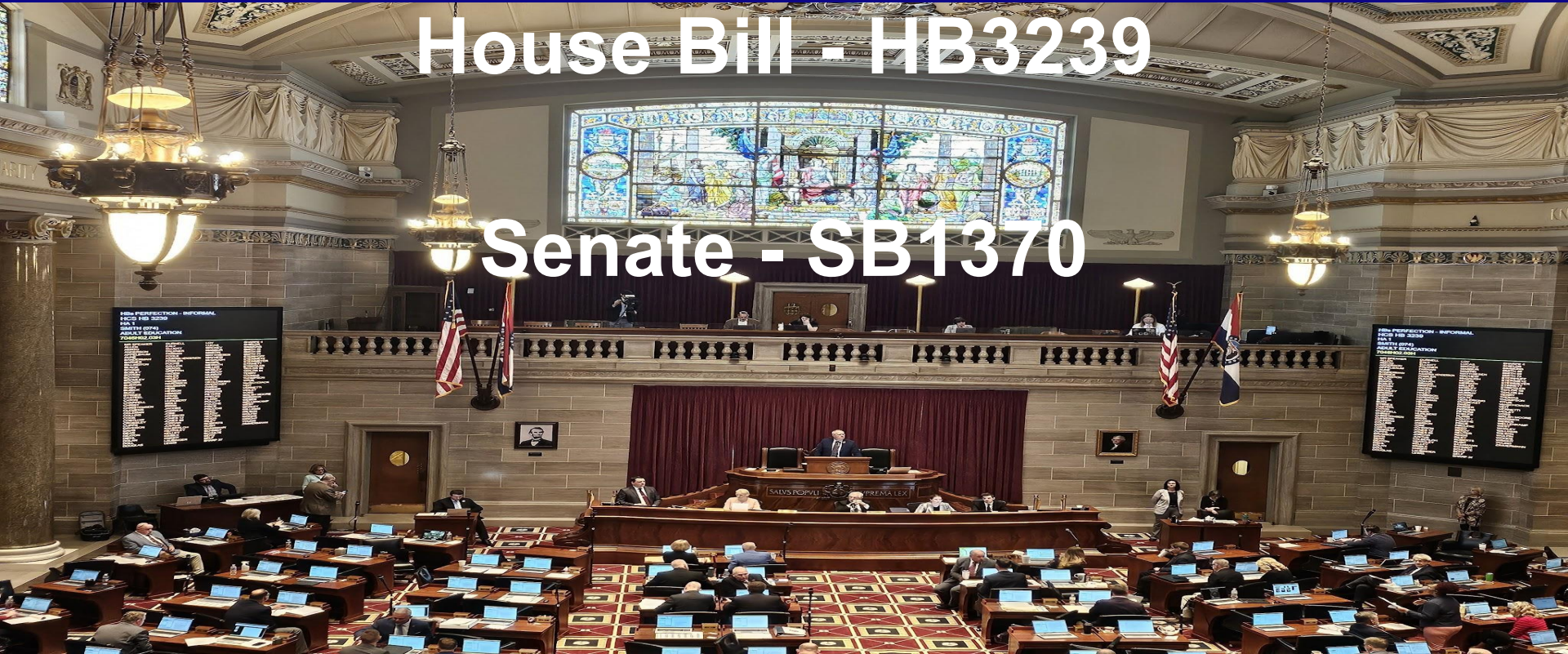


Follow-Up on House and Senate Bills

Missouri

House Bill - HB3239

Senate - SB1370





What We Learned

- The REAL Political Process
- Collective Effort and Perseverance
- Legislators can only work with the information that they have
- We can not assume they have the information needed to make a fiscally sound decision
- The Importance of Relationship development



Here We Go Again

What can you do?

Join the Advocacy Committee

Email 3 State Legislators - Monthly

Email 2 Federal Legislators - Monthly

Gather / Formalize student stories

Request Mayoral Proclamation

Gather / Organize Letters to the Governor



Website and Resources

- Student letters - if we don't share these voices, who will?
- Resource page which includes templates to empower students
- Website



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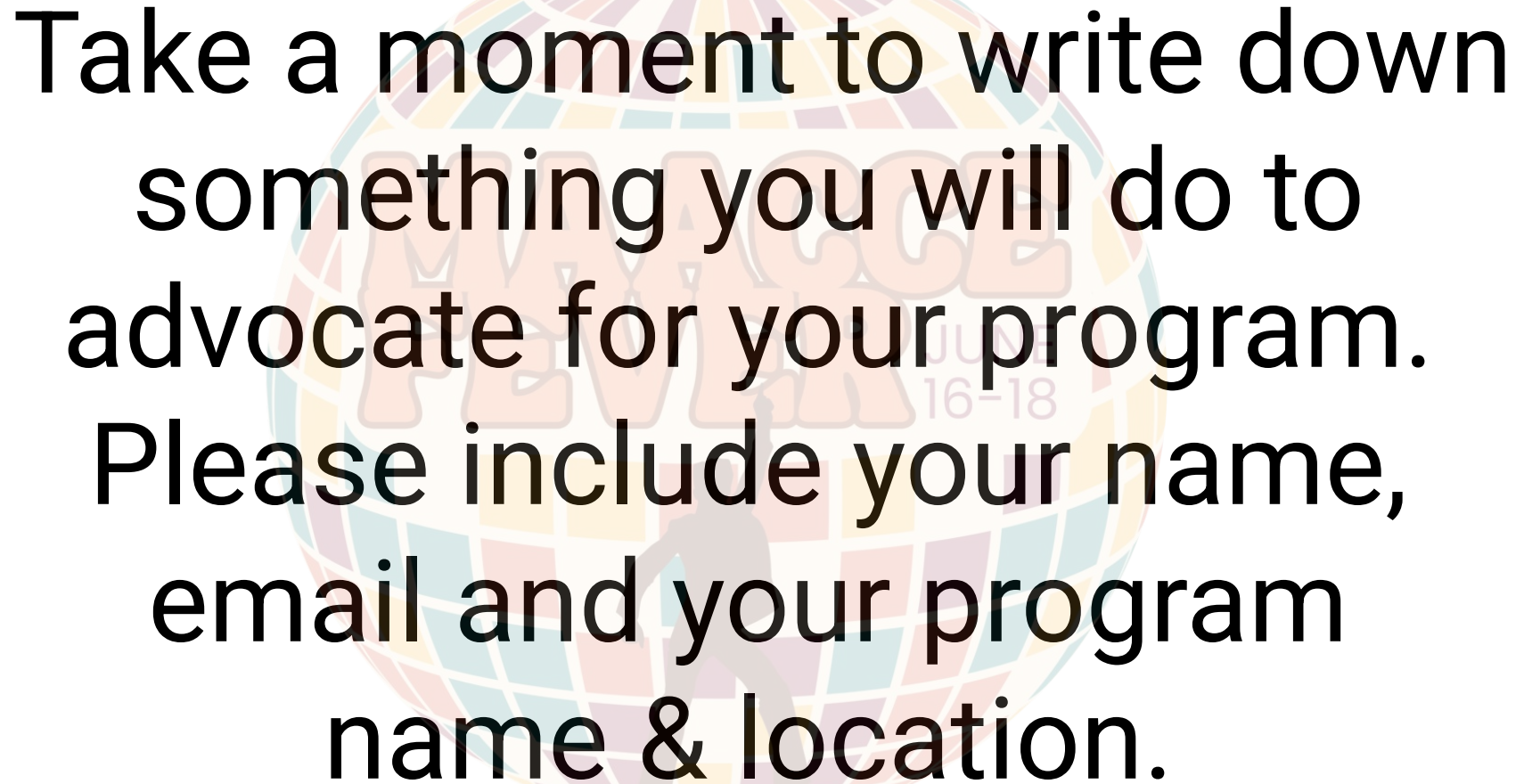
**[MAACCE.org](https://www.maacce.org)
For information and
resources.**



MAACCE

**Scan the QR code to
get involved with
the MAACCE
Advocacy
Committee**





Take a moment to write down something you will do to advocate for your program. Please include your name, email and your program name & location.

POP Quiz!

JEDOPARDY!

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Ciara

When Ciara found out she was pregnant, she and her boyfriend enrolled into the AEL program at the same time. Their daughter was able to watch them both graduate. Ciara received a scholarship from Jefferson College and is scheduled to complete her biology degree in the Summer of 2026.



Lisa

“...I have four kids who have all graduated from high school which has made me the happiest mom ever. Every time one of them graduated there was a little part of me that kept asking myself, “Why can’t I do that?” I enrolled into other programs two times in the past, but I didn’t get the help that I needed to get it done. Last year, I started attending classes in August 2024 with a goal of graduating by 2026. I had the help that I needed and I never felt like I was being judged by anyone. When I first started taking classes I didn’t think that I would schedule any tests before October of 2025 but by May of 2025 I had already passed four out of the five subjects. Being a part of the Independence Adult Education Program was the best decision for me. It provided me with the help and the teaching that I needed and has given me confidence and a better outlook on life. The best part about finishing this program is that I proved to myself that I could do it. I am so excited for my kids to see me across the stage during graduation in May of 2026.”



walk



Staying alive with
ADVOCACY