

2008

Literacy in Colorado

Statewide, 10% of Colorado's residents lack basic literacy skills. How does your county fare?

- Adams — 14%
- Alamosa — 14%
- Arapahoe — 8%
- Archuleta — 9%
- Baca — 12%
- Bent — 16%
- Boulder — 7%
- Chaffee — 8%
- Cheyenne — 11%
- Clear Creek — 5%
- Conejos — 21%
- Costilla — 25%
- Crowley — 14%
- Custer — 7%
- Delta — 12%
- Denver — 16%
- Dolores — 11%
- Douglas — 4%
- Eagle — 13%
- El Paso — 8%
- Elbert — 6%
- Fremont — 12%
- Garfield — 12%
- Gilpin — 6%
- Grand — 7%
- Gunnison — 6%
- Hinsdale — 6%
- Huerfano — 15%
- Jackson — 10%
- Jefferson — 6%
- Kiowa — 9%
- Kit Carson — 13%
- La Plata — 7%
- Lake — 19%
- Larimer — 7%
- Las Animas — 14%
- Lincoln — 11%
- Logan — 11%
- Mesa — 9%
- Mineral — 7%
- Moffat — 11%
- Montezuma — 11%
- Montrose — 12%
- Morgan — 22%
- Otero — 16%
- Ouray — 16%
- Ouray — 6%
- Park — 6%
- Phillips — 13%
- Pitkin — 6%
- Prowers — 19%
- Pueblo — 13%
- Rio Blanco — 9%
- Routt — 5%
- Saguache — 23%
- San Juan — 6%
- San Miguel — 6%
- Sedgwick — 12%
- Summit — 8%
- Teller — 6%
- Washington — 10%
- Weld — 14%
- Yuma — 14%



The Learning Source Annual Report

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The Need.

Reading and writing are the cornerstones to building a democratic society and Colorado is often reported to have a highly educated population. But that is only half the story. Statewide, 10% of Coloradans lack the most basic literacy skills and seventeen Colorado counties match or exceed the national average of 14%.

The reality of the 21st Century is that there are fewer and fewer “unskilled” jobs. At the same time we know that more than one million people who lost their jobs in 2008 are low-skilled individuals. It is reasonable to conclude that this number will only increase as unemployment rises and their chances of earning a living wage will become more and more difficult.

When we examine the rest of Colorado's population we also find that 17.63% of Colorado's adults do not have a high school diploma. It is estimated that over 200,000 Coloradans need adult literacy services.

- 63% of prison inmates can't read
- 18 million adults don't read well enough to earn a living wage
- Proliteracy estimates that 90% of adults who need access to literacy programs cannot obtain the services due to lack of funding
- American business loses an estimated 60 billion dollars per year in lost productivity due to employees' lack of basic reading skills
- Fifty percent of the chronically unemployed are functionally illiterate
- More than eighty-five percent of all fourth graders in high poverty schools score before the proficient level in reading
- The American Medical Association found that low literacy skills increase annual health care expenditures by \$73 billion.

How to get involved

Become an advocate — Help spread the word in your community about the growing need for more funding to expand capacity among Colorado's providers

Become a volunteer — help tutor adults in one of our programs in your community

Make a donation — whether a cash or in-kind donation, your support will go a long way to help The Learning Source meet the needs of many under-educated Coloradans

For more information

Colorado Department of Education
— www.cde.state.co.us

Proliteracy
— www.proliteracy.org

National Center for Family Literacy
— www.familit.org

National Institute for Literacy
— www.nifl.org

Colorado adult education and family literacy programs are able to serve 10% of the state's adults who need services

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The Solution

The Learning Source's network of adult education and family literacy programs are offering high quality programs throughout Aurora, Denver and Lakewood

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

The Learning Source offers programs throughout Aurora, Denver and Lakewood that are designed to meet the unique needs of adults in our community. Programs offer individualized instruction for adults who are seventeen and older. Instruction is competency-based and designed to meet the wide variety of needs students bring with them.

Volunteers bring a strong component to the instructional program by providing highly individualized instruction in a cost-effective manner. This has the added benefit of engaging the wider community in this effort.

GED Preparation

Learning Source programs offer individualized instruction to help adults seventeen and older prepare to take the GED exam. The General Educational Development diploma is a high school diploma and is correlated to each year's class of graduating seniors nationwide. These centers help adult learners study for the reading, writing, science, social studies and mathematics exams.

GED classes are offered in Aurora and Lakewood. Increasingly, our centers are incorporating transitional programs into their design to assist adults to take the next step beyond their GED completion and enroll in Colorado's community colleges and wide variety of trade and technical schools.

Citizenship

Classes at the Belmar Learning Center offer instructional programs to help immigrants prepare to take the Citizenship exam.

English Language Classes

The Learning Source offers English language classes in a variety of settings. The emphasis is on helping Colorado's immigrants learn to speak English well and to develop basic reading and writing skills in English. Volunteers are an invaluable resource to help us meet the steadily growing need in a cost effective manner.

Family Literacy

Recognizing the fact that illiteracy is inter-generational, our family literacy programs bring parents and children to school together to help parents develop the skills they need to be their children's most important teacher. Family Literacy is comprised of four highly-integrated components:

Adult Education

ABE, GED preparation and/or English language instruction classes help parents develop their own literacy skills as an important foundation to prepare them to guide their children's literacy development.

Children's Education

Early childhood, pre-school and K-5 programs are a fundamental component to family literacy programs

Parent Time

These sessions incorporate a wide variety of topics that support parents' understanding of child development.

Parent and Child Together Time

Parents are taught to work with their children in the classroom and learn how to incorporate literacy development activities into their home.



The Impact—2008

The Learning Source Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED Preparation and English Language programs saw the following successes:

- 1,341 adults enrolled in English language programs
- 195 adults enrolled in ABE/GED Preparation classes
- GED graduates at the Denver County Jail doubled to 70 from the prior year.
- Neighborhood programs retained 85% of the students who enrolled
- Our GED graduation celebrated the success of 104 graduates

In 2008, 441 families enrolled in family literacy programs . Successes included:

- Children made significant gains in development areas
- Parents engaged in a wider variety of reading and writing with their children at home
- Adults made significant improvements in language and math
- Family Literacy programs retained 94% of the families who enrolled

- Adults obtain and keep employment
- Children are ready to enter kindergarten when they leave the family literacy program
- Children performed average or better in their elementary classrooms

Why is literacy Important?

Adults need strong literacy skills

To raise children who have strong literacy skills

To be good employees

To keep themselves and their families healthy

To be active participants in their communities

To advocate for themselves and avoid human rights abuse

Communities need people with strong literacy skills

To reduce crime

To attract business with an educated workforce

To have an educated voter base

To raise the economic health of the community

Adult education and Family Literacy



A cost effective way to build an educated workforce today

The Learning Source adult basic education, GED preparation, English language and Family Literacy programs educate an adult for \$466/year





We believe education is essential to people's freedom, their confidence, and their ability to perform in the family, community and work-place.

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Alumni Speaker to the 2008 Graduating Class of the Learning Source, November 5, 2008

I would like to share with every person in this room tonight, some of my personal experiences here in the United States. When I first came to this country, back in 1999, I knew already that I could do something better with my life. I started working in construction earning wages of about \$7.00 per hour. Fortunately, this situation did not last for long. A few months later, I was hired by JPLamborn Company; my role with that company was to operate a machine. Not a very good position but at least more remunerative than construction. In 2005, I was still working for the same company, but I had been promoted to a production supervisor.

In the same year, a friend of mine talked to me about taking ESL classes in the evenings. Well, I thought why not, I have been here in the U.S. for many years and I believe that this is where I will spend the rest of my life, so why not take some classes? I enrolled in the Aurora Language Center, 6th level of ESL classes with Mr. Kaaz, a course that I took for two semesters. After taking this class twice, I was wondering what to do next. From what I knew, there was not 7th level in this school for ESL classes. I asked Mr. Kaaz what he would recommend for me to do. He said "Go to college take more advanced classes over there".

I enrolled in a G.E.D. course. I knew this was going to be a challenge because most of the students were English speakers, this did prove to be true. However, by the end of the course Ms. Irene talked to me about a scholarship offered by Daniels Fund that allows four G.E.D. students to attend CCA. Now at this point, I really wanted to keep walking down the education road. One of the conditions to apply for this scholarship was that the student needed to have their G.E.D. diploma by the end of the year. I did not hesitate and began taking all my tests within 2 weeks in order to have my GED by the deadline.

I received wonderful news that I was one of the recipients of the scholarships offered by Daniels Fund. Within two weeks I was attending college. I was so afraid; I was not even sure what I wanted to study. I overcame all my fears and here I am! In January I will be attending my fourth semester at CCA. I am currently working to get my associated degree in arts with an emphasis in business. Upon completion of that, I am planning to transfer to Metropolitan State College. Going back to the moment when I was having the interview with the people from CCA; I remember very well one question asked by Ms Bowman. "What do you do at work?" She asked. I responded that I work as a production supervisor. Then she said "Well, with a college degree you may end up running a plant." Now, I think she was totally right. At this point I am basically running JPLamborn Company in Denver. A few months ago I was promoted to a new position called Assistant Operation Manager, which involves production, logistics, and also human resource duties. I know that this opportunity I was given was due to not only my hard work but also for my achievements at school.

Abel Maruffa

Financial Report—FY 2008

The Learning Source is proud of the fact that we continue to provide quality programming in our community while directing 90 cents of every dollar to our programs.

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2008	2007
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Support				
Contributions	\$ 148,989	\$ 50,000	\$ 198,989	\$ 267,538
In-kind contributions	272,455	-	272,455	247,139
Governmental grants and contracts				
Federal	574,873	-	574,873	570,684
Local	445,838	-	445,838	207,591
Special events - Net of expenses	14,424	-	14,424	-
Total support	<u>1,456,579</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>1,506,579</u>	<u>1,292,952</u>
Revenue				
Investment income	13,786	-	13,786	10,080
Gain (loss) on investments	(24,068)	-	(24,068)	15,854
Other	3,034	-	3,034	-
Total revenue	<u>(7,248)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,248)</u>	<u>25,934</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>1,449,331</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>1,499,331</u>	<u>1,318,886</u>
EXPENSES				
Program services	<u>1,385,211</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,385,211</u>	<u>1,180,052</u>
Supporting services				
Administrative	98,887	-	98,887	89,872
Fundraising	46,699	-	46,699	42,394
Total supporting service	<u>145,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,586</u>	<u>132,266</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,530,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,530,797</u>	<u>1,312,318</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(81,466)	50,000	(31,466)	6,568
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>306,707</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>306,707</u>	<u>300,139</u>
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 225,241</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$ 275,241</u>	<u>\$ 306,707</u>