



**The Need**

**Adult Basic Education and Literacy**

Virginia 2006 · High School Completion	Number	Percent (%) of Age Group
Population age 18 - 24, less than high school graduate	113,714	14.8
Population age 25 and over, less than high school graduate	740,072	14.6
<b>Total population</b>	<b>853,786</b>	<b>14.7</b>

*U.S. Census, 2006 American Community Survey*

Virginia 2003 · Basic Prose Literacy Skills (BPLS)	Number	Percent (%)
Population lacking basic prose literacy skills*	662,715	12
Counties with a percentage higher than the national average	62	46

\*The literacy of adults who lack BPLS ranges from being unable to read and understand any written information in English to being able to locate easily identifiable information in short, commonplace prose text, but nothing more advanced. -National Center for Education Statistics

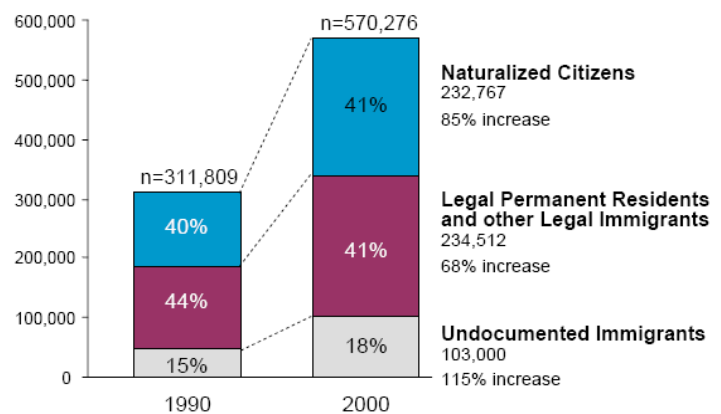
**English for Speakers of Other Languages**

**Virginia's Foreign-Born Population**

- 10.1% (773,785) of Virginia's 2006 population
- 13.0 percent of Virginia's 2006 civilian employed workforce
- Virginia ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation
- More than 80% are in Virginia legally
- Two Virginia counties are among the top ten in the nation with the largest percent growth in foreign-born population between 2000 and 2006: **Frederick (5<sup>th</sup>) and Loudoun (9<sup>th</sup>)**

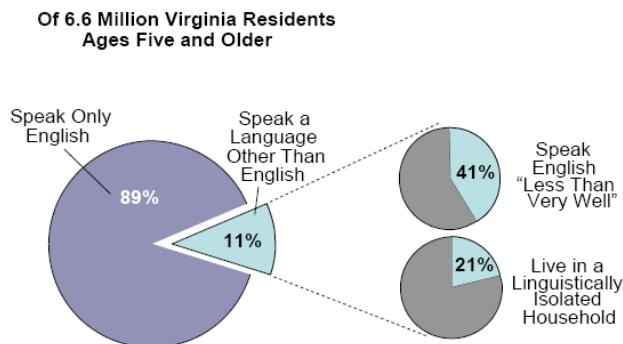
*Migration Policy Institute*

**Comparison of Foreign-Born Residents in Virginia, 1990 and 2000**



**The population grew another 35.7% between 2000 & 2006.**

**English Proficiency of Virginia Residents**



*JLARC (2007)*

**Poverty in Virginia**

- Over 20,000 (23%) Virginia families with single mothers live in poverty.
- 43% of adults with very low literacy live in poverty.
- 70% of adult welfare recipients have lower level literacy skills.
- 25-34 year-olds who dropped out of high school are more than 3 times as likely to receive public assistance
- Children are 5 times more likely to drop out of high school if their parents are unemployed and lack a high school diploma. -

*National Institute for Literacy*

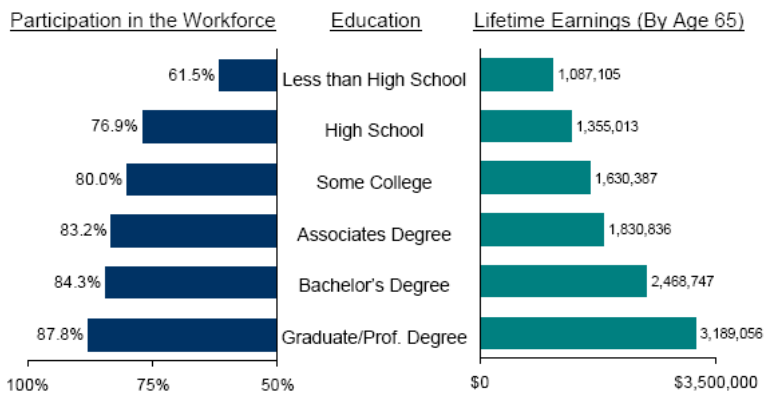
## Economic Impact

### How Does Education Pay Off for Virginia?

Working-age residents with college degrees are 37% more likely to participate in the workforce than those with less than a high school diploma.

And their earnings over a lifetime are twice as much—a substantial personal benefit as well as a benefit to the state with respect to more taxable resources, fewer health problems, lower rates of crime, and greater levels of civic engagement.

*Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)*



### Effectiveness of Adult Education in Virginia

From 2002 -2004, Adult Education **exceeded** all other WIA programs in number of high school completions among participants and did it at a **significantly cheaper** cost.

Program	HS Completion Rate	Federal Cost / Participant	Federal Cost / Completion
AEFLA	51%	\$217	\$3,081
Title I Youth	36%	\$2,920	\$13,291
Job Corps	48%	\$26,036	\$73,212
YouthBuild	33%	\$17,431	\$60,024

#### Adult Education Program Performance in Virginia 2006-2007\*

Number of adult students served	32,502
Number of students retained	27,519
Percent of students retained	85%
Percent making educational gain	54%
Percent who achieved their goal of entering employment	65%
Full-time Teachers	107
Part-time Teachers	1796
Federal ABE, EL/Civics money received	\$12,816,956
Virginia General Assembly allocation to adult basic education and literacy (2008-09)	\$3,704,300

*National Reporting System*

*Virginia Issues & Answers, Summer 2008*

*\*Does not include figures from the Department of Correctional Education*



**For more information, contact:**

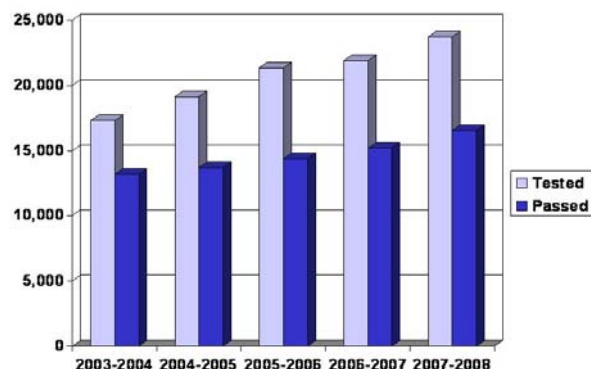
Jane Swing at (540) 831-6207, or visit [www.vaace.org](http://www.vaace.org)

### How Much Does a High School Dropout Cost?

Researchers have started to examine various annual and lifetime costs associated with high school dropouts.

- The United States could save between \$7.9 and \$10.8 billion annually by improving educational attainment among all recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, food stamps, and housing assistance (Garfinkel et al., 2005).
- A high school dropout contributes about \$60,000 less in taxes over a lifetime (Rouse, 2005).
- If the male graduation rate were increased by only 5 percent, the nation would see an annual savings of \$4.9 billion in crime-related costs (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2006b).
- America could save more than \$17 billion in Medicaid and expenditures for health care for the uninsured by graduating all students (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2006a).

*Alliance for Excellent Education, 2007*



### Increases in GED #'s Tested/Passed

*Virginia Department of Education, OAEL*