# A Guide to Making the Case for Adult Basic Education

**Making the Case for Investment in Adult Education**

A white paper released by ProLiteracy, based on research by Dr. Stephen Reder, a longtime literacy researcher and advocate.  [Click here to download the document](https://wisconsinliteracy.org/file_download/3d4375d8-5561-4a8c-9c41-d51266f93c50).

**Highlights** (pay special attention to pages 6-14)

* Adults who attended at least 100 hours of ABE programming showed **mean income gains of 53%.**  Adults who did not graduate from high school and did not participate ABE programs showed an income drop of 2%. (page 6)
* Adults who attended at least 100 hours of ABE programming **averaged $10,000 more in annual income**.  Often, it took up to **5 years after exit**, to see this impact. Our ABE programs aren’t magic, they prepare adults with tools they need to **progress over time.** (page 7)
* Adults who did not graduate from high school were **twice as likely to earn a high school equivalency** after 100 hours of ABE programming. (page 8)
* Adults in ABE programs showed **a higher commitment to voting, volunteerism, community engagement, and social cohesion.** (page 12)

**Use the White Paper to Change Public Perception**

* Talk about it at a board meeting.  Prepare board members to take this information into the community.
* Share this information: on social media, in the news, with Workforce Development Boards and local employers
* Send the white paper, with a letter, to legislators
* Share the information at a tutor in-service and ask tutors to send letters to legislators
* Use the attached lesson plan to teach adult learners how they can have a voice with lawmakers.
* More ideas at: <https://www.proliteracy.org/Resources/Need-for-Literacy-Research>