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| **Transcribed Input from ABE, ASE/GED and Vocational Learners.** |
| Organizations: 3Participants:GED = 6Vocational = 5 ABE/Vocational = 23Total = 34 |
| **1a: Prior knowledge and experience about adult education. Why do people attend Adult Education programs?*** Why do people come to adult education program? Because many people doesn’t had the opportunity to study but it never to late. Also is important take the training for learn about who is health care and how is my duties.
* To prove they can do it
* To get their education on track
* They want a career/job (2 responses)
* They feel it’s their time now
* To learn English (3 responses)
* To inspire others
* They want to go to college and earn a Bachelor’s degree (2 responses)
* To have a better life financially for themselves and their family
* They are too old to go back to high school or middle school
* To better themselves
* They dropped out of high school (3 responses)
* To get a GED diploma (2 responses)
* To have fun doing activities like mathematics
* To socialize with other adults
* They want to compare Adult Education now to Adult Education a few years back
* They are from another country
* They got pregnant in high school (2 responses)
* Their children are old enough now
* They want to be a positive role model for their children

**1b: I come to this program because*** To further their education to get certifications or degrees. To get assistance in an life or education skill you may be lacking.
* I don’t like when we have a few students I like when there is more so I learn a little from everybody.
* Because my job is get comfortable the patient, that’s why is important.. to know what the person likes, or what they don’t like.
* It’s close to home (3 responses)
* It’s beyond helpful
* Class is always fun
* The teacher goes above and beyond for her students
* We have a family/friend bond (2 responses)
* We work on things in class to prepare for the GED test
* We make connections through writing
* My teacher actually teaches
* We have open discussions
* To be able to have courage
* To show my daughter, “If I can, you can. Never give up.”
* To prove to myself that I can change my entire life
* To make my daughter, my family and parents finally proud of me for a real accomplishment
* To come do and get what people told me I wasn’t able to ever accomplish
* To show DCYF I, and anyone, is able to change their entire life around and get a real career
* To stop people from doubting me
* Pure happiness
* Class is always interesting
* To inspire my children
* We have a partnership
* To learn something new
* To help my classmates
* I want a diploma
* It’s convenient
* There is only a small fee/not an expensive program/almost free (4 responses)
* I was comfortable with my teacher in another program, and now she is teaching in this program
* It’s very supportive
* It’s a great outlet
* You can practice for your GED and obtain your GED
* To learn English in Newport instead of driving to Providence
* In three hours a day, we learn lots of things
* The program is very helpful
* Both teachers are great
* I got a tutor
* No question is ever left unanswered
* We have a strong connection
* Inspiring classmates
* I always feel welcomed
* One-on-one help is always there if needed
* “I want to get my GED.”
* “I want to improve my skills to get into the C.N.A. class.”
* “I don’t feel dumb here like I did at the other schools. When I look around and see other students working on different things, I don’t feel different or stand out even though I have trouble reading.”
* “When I ask for help, I get it.”
* “I don’t have to compete with anyone but me.”
* “I want to get my GED and get a better job.”
* “I work better by myself than working in a group.”
* “I lose interest and get distracted if I have to listen to a teacher for more than 10 minutes. I don’t do well in a large classroom. I like this style of school.”
* “When I need help, nothing stops them from helping me until I understand what I am learning. The three teachers are very patient with me.”

***One thing I like about [this program]:**** I like that we have class 4 days a week
* I like that we can speak on any topic
* I like how close knit we all are
* I loves that my teacher believes in me
* I like that we set goals each week
* I like that we have fun while learning
* I like that, because of this program, I’m graduating
* I like that we work on getting our GEDs and we practice for the test by doing work as a class. There is always help when you need it
* I like that we set goals every week
* I like having 3 hours each day for my education
* I like that I’ve learned to write paragraphs
* I liked Math Fun Day, Common Sense Parenting, and How to Write a Resume
* I like everything about it. The teacher is always happy. Her positive vibe helps a lot with dealing with a lot outside of class. The students are all so welcoming, and the teacher really teaches. It feels great to learn.
* I like the Quotes of the Day and writing
* I like working on math, especially in groups
* If we don’t understand something, the teacher helps us individually or goes over it again in class
* I like inspiring my classmates
* “I like the flexible hours. I can come in the mornings or the afternoons”
* “I like than I am better at Math.”
* “I like this style of school and I am more focused in this program. My teachers help me stay focused on one skill at a time, until I get it. Now, I like Math!”
* “I like that this school has helped me build confidence in learning how to take tests without getting stressed out.”
* “The staff and other students.”
* “The support and explanations I get when I don’t understand the work.”
* “The flexible hours, independent style and that staff are available for help when I need it.”
* “The support and encouragement to keep going when the work gets hard.”
* “Everyone is focused on helping people.”
* “One on one help and different teachers give different examples to help me understand what I am learning.”
* “I like that I can work at my own pace.”
* “This school has helped build my confidence and now my attitude about school is better.”
* “The friendly atmosphere makes doing the work easier.”
* “The close supervision and contact. They don’t let mistakes continue to happen or let students get ‘lost in the shuffle’. There is no rush and I always know how I am doing. It’s flexible, like ‘let’s try this option’…
* “The convenient location, comfortable classroom space, I am learning and the hours are good. I can still work and go to school.”
* “There are not many distractions and when I’m at school, I am focused on work.”
* “I Don’t Like”
* “I don’t like when I miss class.”
* “I was nervous and uncomfortable at first, but everyone made me feel comfortable and now everyone says ‘hi’.”
* “No parking available.”
* “The location and seeing the people hanging out in the front of the building and near the bus stop.”

***One thing I dislike about [this program]:**** I hope we get to work on the computers more next year
* I hope the program will be able to offer job training in the future
* I don’t like that the hours are 8:30-11:30. Being a parent without transportation, it would be better if it was 9:00 to noon for the moms that have a different schedule
* I don’t like long vacations away from school
* I don’t like that there is no more funding for the childcare room
* I don’t like our short classes and wish they were longer than 3 hours
* I dislike the February and April vacations. It’s depressing not to be in class with my classmates that feel like a family
* I don’t like vacations
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| **2, Option A: Adult Ed in RI*** Learning
* Helping people
* [from the instructor] Most students have not fully researched other services that adult education agencies offer, but were referred to us by either DHS, Youth Success programs, friends, family or referrals from other agencies who have required minimum CASAS testing entry levels. Often times during our weekly Program Information Sessions, people come thinking that we offer ESL and give the actual GED tests here. Not many are aware that the GED exam has changed what the test is comprised of or what is needed in order to pass it. Almost all believe that they are ready to take and pass the exam, regardless of what grade they dropped out of school and how many years they have been away from a school environment. Many times, we will refer students to other agencies, (primarily for ESOL), or ORS if their English language skills are seem too challenging, or to ORS if non-independent behaviors and extremely low test scores are apparent. More can certainly be done to offer information to students about what is available and where to find such information.
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| **2, Option B: Purposes of Adult Ed. Notes from “Where do you Go?” and “What do you Do?”** * Math (ugh!)
* I don’t like the lack of funding for materials
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| **3. “One thing I want to tell people who organize adult ed.”*****One thing you want to tell people about Adult Education:**** The […] GED program is a great place for anyone that didn’t get to finish high school. They are very helpful and they genuinely care.
* The program gives single mothers who dropped out of school another chance to obtain their diploma and get further in life for themselves and their children
* It helps students continue their education
* It helps people from other countries to learn the English language
* It gives people a better future to become financially free, stress free, allowing them to keep on learning. Knowledge is freedom. It can bring you to places in life you never thought you could get to, accomplishing unlimited goals
* Adult Education gives many opportunities to single parents, dropouts, and older adults to continue their education to get further in life
* I think you should know that our Adult Education program is extremely helpful, but maybe if we had more funding for certain things like childcare, we could have a much bigger success rate because more people would be able to attend
* “I find the new Ged testing much harder. only because they require more skills. More computer skills typing skills. For many people it will harder and much longer Because They would have to learn how to type and use a computer. I think the NEDP would be a better fit for some people that are looking to achieve these goals and dreams in getting there high school diploma.”
* “The thought of test fees scare me I really don’t have the money for testing. I travel a lot from work and to come to GED program I have to travel sometimes from 30 minutes away distance. I love the program and the teachers but sometimes I wish they had night classes. I usually come during my work break. It is a challenge sometimes being a mother of 3 and work 40 hours a week and in the summer time I worry I don’t have no care for kids and I’m only able to come 1 hour a day because of work. All I can think about now is just that if I don’t have to pay for testing and classes is a great blessing now I’m working on maintaining my traveling expenses. I don’t want to go to a different GED program. Here, they help me and really teach me. I never felt so secure of getting my GED. It will also help me if we have afternoon classes 5 times a week. Sometimes I can’t make it in the morning, so 1-3 will be a big help.”
* “Why if you don’t have your high school diploma you take the GED class. You go to school for 2 or 3 years. Why it take so long? Sometimes you feel discorage. I would like to know if you can make it easy.”
* “I think this program is great because you can work at your own pace and they give you the option to do the NEDP program witch is great.”
* “I think the this experiences is amazing. Why? Because I learn more then I need that teacher is amazing in explaning how and do in the time to teaching you. We need more funds in order to put the people in low income and computer to provide more program and what schools need for the student.”
* “I want the test cost to be lowered and make the test more reasonable for students who have not been in school for a long time.”
* “I wish it took less time to get a GED. It’s too hard. I wish the tests were free.”
* “Well its good to have a program such as this with several teachers which can help students in class 1 on 1 that some may need to get a head. Without a program such as this where would people go that would like to better themselves?”
* “The one on one help is great. There should be no fees for the GED because it is similar to high school.”
* “I think it should be free testing for the GED. And not so hard or so long.”
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