**What are the biggest strengths of adult education in Rhode Island?**

**+Students**

* Learners and students x10
  + Motivated students
  + Committed, enthusiastic and overcoming many barriers students
  + Students who want to learn matched with teachers who love teaching.
  + Student motivation. It should be reinforced frequently.
  + Diversity of foreign-born population

**WIOA**

**Standards & Quality/Curriculum**

* The programs that I know of are high quality.
* Engagement in improvement strategies including technology, teaching standards, adoption of new more rigorous standards for students
* Dedicated educators that give up time in order to develop a more effective curriculum in order to enable our adult students to succeed.

**Information and Access**

* There are options for adult learners - location and cost included in the options.
* That there are so many adult ed programs that are free. There are programs for both non-English-speaking populations and literacy for non-immigrant citizens. There are also some good programs for family literacy
* There are different programs for the different populations.
* The diversity of programs
* The dissemination of information through the RIDE adult ed office - WIOA updates, CALIS user group, GED information updates etc.
* Offers programs for all levels of learners and provides flexibility for students who cannot commit full time to improving their literacy
* Access throughout the state
* Agencies sharing information.
* Affordable and convenient for students
* I think it is widely available but perhaps needs to be more widely publicized
* That we offer free programs.
* It provides other avenues for adult learners to become fully functioning members of society through various training and professional development
* The numerous programs in a variety of locations with adequate space to allow learners to pursue progress.
* Many available resources out there.
* Programs available in all regions of the state
* The biggest strength is the diversity of programs, non-profits, and organizations that offer adult education services.
* Multiple programs that are located within communities of need that provide choice to students.
* Many providers in a small state.
* There are a number of important resources available.
* So many programs around the state are defined and a common topic of conversation. Adult Education is the organization that devotes itself to all the nooks and crannies of educational opportunity that falls outside everybody else's boundaries. AE is the name for opportunity and it has a whole system in place to make change possible.
* Accessibility of those who are aware of services provided.
* Geographic diversity
* There are a variety of locations and schedules to meet adult learners’ needs.
* We serve those who have been forgotten or given up on.
* That adult education means more than in a formal academic setting.
* Institutions are spread throughout towns and neighborhoods making adult ed accessible.
* A variety of programs financially and geographically available to MOST students.
* Variety of programs, location availability, and program schedules.
* There are many high quality programs available for adults.
* Strong network of program serving adults in RI
* Access to great educational partners statewide
* Programs are located close to the students and offer a range of programs to meet their need, from low beginner through GED levels.
* Offers programs for all levels of learners and provides flexibility for students who cannot commit full time to improving their literacy
* There are options for adult learners - location and cost included in the options.
* That there are so many adult ed programs that are free. There are programs for both non-English-speaking populations and literacy for non-immigrant citizens. There are also some good programs for family literacy.
* There are many programs that offer English language classes for adults and at a low cost.
* There are different programs for the different populations.
* The diversity of programs

**GED/NEDP**

* GED in more languages
* There are classes for native speakers to get a GED."

**Career Pathways**

**College Transitions**

* CCRI x2
* We are a small state. We have many colleges and universities. Each one should open their arms to the collective wisdom and skills of RI adults.
* We also have partnerships with organizations which offer support and advancement for the adult learner such as colleges and universities.
* Many colleges offer opportunity to adults at a reduced cost.

**System Structure & Governance**

* Quarterly RIDE Leadership meetings x2
* The dissemination of information through the RIDE adult ed office - WIOA updates, CALIS user group, GED information updates etc.
* Regular input from field into state policies and initiatives.
* The WIB's communication Network; linkages through RIDLT;

**Adult Education Workforce**

* Dedicated, committed, adult education professionals/teachers x34
  + Students who want to learn matched with teachers who love teaching.
  + Adult education providers’ expertise in helping students.
  + The intensive vocation and creativity of the teachers and providers.
  + Commitment and resourcefulness of practitioners
  + Creative and committed teachers who spend many hours observing the strengths and needs of their students and improving/adjusting their curriculum and practice.
  + I've been impressed by the availability of instruction for adult students.
  + Most practitioners whom I have met are actively engaged in providing the best education possible for their students.
  + Our staff comes from a variety of backgrounds that could be leveraged in transformative ways.
  + I think we have some really great, dedicated and sincere teachers.
  + Flexible teachers.
  + Dedicated personnel x6
  + Undercompensated but dedicated and resourceful teachers/instructors x3
  + The commitment of teachers to understanding their adult learners and providing instruction that is differentiated accordingly to support them in moving ahead to obtain the educational credentials they need to improve their chances for better employment and training, leading to income that is a livable wage.
  + Passion to serve people
  + Staff gives over 100% to the students and it eventually helps client to get a job.
* The quality of adult education directors and administrative staff. X7
  + A group of professional, caring staff that support the learners and the teachers
* The Professional Development Center x19
  + The Adult Education Conference
  + Delivers high-level training; facilitates collaboration; and teaches us what we need to know to deliver quality services and stay viable.
  + PD Center (especially now that distance attendance is being promoted) so that Staff PD can trickle down to Tutors & Learners.
* PD x5
  + Effective systems of professional development, data collection and technology
* Since we are a small state, programs are able to meet face-to-face on a regular basis and work on initiatives to strengthen the field and receive professional development. When I go to conferences and hear from other programs in large states, they feel isolated. Attending a meeting with other directors rarely happens since travel time can be extensive. We, on the other hand, have the advantage to receive professional development regularly, meet as directors and share important information.
* The commitment of teachers to understanding their adult learners and providing instruction that is differentiated accordingly to support them in moving ahead to obtain the educational credentials they need to improve their chances for better employment and training, leading to income that is a livable wage.
* Volunteers - x5
  + The legions of volunteers who support adult learners as tutors, program administrative help, Board Members etc.
  + Harnessing the skills of trained volunteers to deliver exceptional tutoring programs.
* It has to be the dedicated individuals with the strength to endure any obstacle for the benefit of the population they serve.
* The biggest strengths are the people who organize and provide services on a shoestring for a population that is too easily forgotten.

**Planning & Vision**

**Priorities**

**Funding**

* Private funding.
* More grants needed for our Adult Educational Programs.

**Collaboration and Coordination**

* We are all using the similar intake procedures and assessments, the same state database system, etc. Students should be able to transfer from one agency to another relatively easily so their learning is not interrupted should their schedule change or they have to move, etc.
* Connections with RI Dept. of Education.
* Small promotes interconnectedness that facilitates disseminating information and gathering to share practices or resources. X14
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  + Many organizations working to address similar issues so greater collective impact.
  + The efforts to collaborate with the necessary agencies to ensure adults have the tools for upward mobility and strong families and community.

**Outcomes/Reporting**

* Systems in place to successfully track outcomes and help adult education agencies be accountable
* There are programs with measurable results.
* Effective systems of professional development, data collection and technology
* Systems in place to successfully track outcomes and help adult education agencies be accountable
* Also, we are all using the similar intake procedures and assessments, the same state database system, etc. Students should be able to transfer from one agency to another relatively easily so their learning is not interrupted should their schedule change or they have to move, etc.

**Practices/Program Design**

* Personalization, family literacy models
* Focused on helping learners meet their goals, not just advancing employer/funder/economic interests.
* The programs are designed to improve both the literacy levels of adults and allow adults to obtain a diploma and move onto higher education or a better job.
* User groups-- such as TPP provide opportunities for collaboration & information sharing - no need to reinvent the wheel - no time either!" x2
* keep the focus on learners needs
* Programs can "specialize" and focus on their strengths that help students succeed.
* System dedicated to helping adults achieve their work and life goals.
* Putting students at the center of their work.
* CALIS User's groups.
* There is also some room for CBOs to innovate in order to serve the needs of diverse populations. A good example being the opportunity for native literacy strategies.
* The ability community-located programs have to work at a grass-roots level with the neighborhoods.
* There are some of the best programs and classrooms in the country here in RI.
* We have compassionate programs to help adults retrain when their existing skills are marginally useful for gainful employment
* The programs are designed to improve both the literacy levels of adults and allow adults to obtain a diploma and move onto higher education or a better job.
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**Workforce and Work Readiness**

* In RI, we have an adult ed system that is focused on workforce development. We hope that at the end of your journey there is a job waiting for you (And work with many employers to assist in the process).
* The quality of programs that are available to Adult Learners seeking to advance in their career field.
* Empowering adults accomplish their career goals and to be independent as well as give back to the State of RI.
* Getting the general population educated and job ready.
* It can be a bridge to jobs
* Staff gives over 100% to the students and it eventually helps client to get a job.
* Assisting adults to pursue a job after some form of education/training.
* RI is a small state and many Workforce Development players know each other and the programs that are available to RI residents.
* GWB support
* We have some good workforce trainings.

**System Evaluation**

**Supportive Services**

* The adult education system has a strong commitment to a statewide focus on services for adults in RI.
* Systematic approach to serving adult learners (e.g., providing multiple services to meet the needs of the student and his or her family, referring clients to other providers, and linking adult education with employment).
* Support services can and are linked together for program participants based on the strength of relationships throughout the Adult Education system. "
* The efforts to collaborate with the necessary agencies to ensure adults have the tools for upward mobility and strong families and community.

**Technology**

* There are a lot of available resources for adults to access online.
* Computer skills ( Microsoft)
* Engagement in improvement strategies including technology
* Availability of technology that is necessary for adults to access information and materials on-line, through video, or other means and to further develop their technology skills,
* Effective systems of professional development, data collection and technology

**Comparisons**

**Program-Specific**

**Other/Unsorted**

**+Awareness/Visibility**

* The Adult Ed provider community supports their clients and advocates for them.

**+ESL**

* There are several community organizations engaged in serving people whose first language is not English.
* That there are so many adult ed programs that are free. There are programs for both non-English-speaking populations and literacy for non-immigrant citizens. There are also some good programs for family literacy
* We have good programs for ESOL. We have some good workforce trainings.
* ESL program
* Providing English language courses to students who are new to the US or would like to improve their skills.
* There are many programs that offer English language classes for adults and at a low cost.
* We have good programs for ESOL