



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness and Adult Education Options

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.) guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness, including specific supports for unaccompanied youth - “a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.” In Connecticut, free and appropriate public education must be offered through age 18 or through age 21 for some students with disabilities. Any youth experiencing homelessness should connect directly with a school district via the McKinney-Vento liaison listed on the CSDE website at [Connecticut LEA Homeless Liaison Catalog](#).

Some youth and young adults may seek alternative education settings outside of high school. Connecticut requires every town to provide mandated adult education programs to residents, free-of-charge. Through local school districts, consortiums of districts, and other eligible agencies, the following mandated programs are available to any adult 17 years of age or older not enrolled in a secondary school program:

1. **Secondary School Completion:** Connecticut Adult Education offers three distinct pathways for adults to attain a high school diploma.
 - **Adult High School Credit Diploma (AHSCD):** A prescribed plan, process and structure for earning the required academic and elective credits.
 - **General Educational Development (GED):** A four-part exam that measures the attainment of academic skills and concepts normally acquired through the completion of a high school program. GED instructional programs help individuals to prepare for this rigorous examination.
 - **National External Diploma Program (NEDP):** An online portfolio assessment program in lieu of classroom instruction. Designed for adults who have gained skills through life experiences and demonstrated competence in a particular job, talent or academic area.
2. **Americanization/Citizenship:** Instruction designed to support foreign-born adults who wish to become United States citizens. Persons completing this program are prepared to pursue citizenship through the prescribed process of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.
3. **Elementary School Completion/Adult Basic Education (ABE):** Provides classes and support to adults who lack basic reading, writing and numeracy skills.
4. **English as a Second Language (ESL):** Assists individuals to improve their English skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to find or maintain employment, attain citizenship, become more involved with their children’s schooling, and make greater use of community resources.

Additionally, through other federal, state and local funds, towns may offer additional adult education programs that support the following areas:

- Workforce Readiness;
- Integrated Education and Training;
- Transition to Postsecondary Education and Training;
- Corrections Education and other Special Populations;
- Integrated English Literacy and Civics; and
- Connecticut Adult Virtual High School.

To learn more about any of these programs and services, including a [town by town provider directory](#) visit <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Services/Adult-Education>.

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