

## LEARNING AND EARNING

To stay competitive in the global economy, employers need workers who can read, write, compute, solve problems, and communicate well.

The Adult Education Section of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education responds to both the employer and the potential employee to help enhance the local workforce skills through WAGE – **W**orkforce **A**lliance for **G**rowth in the **E**conomy™.

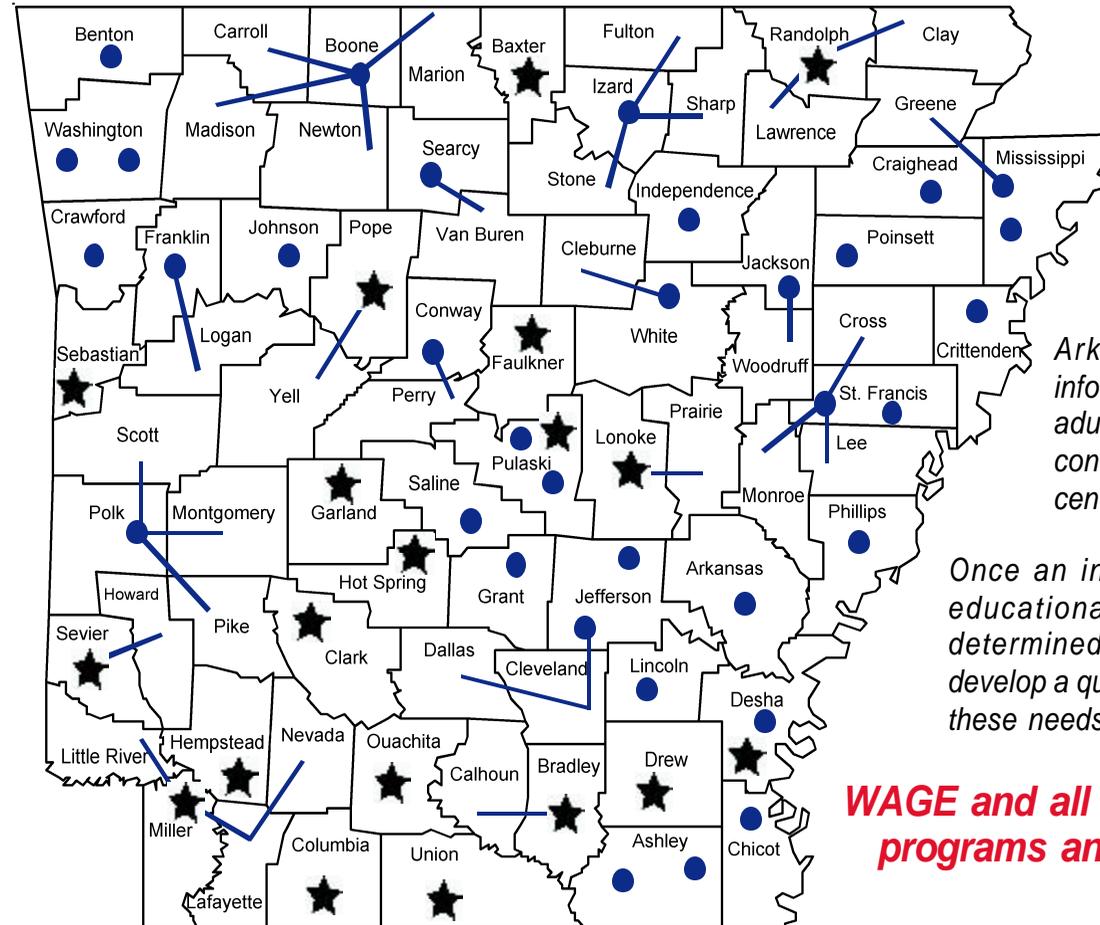
*In a local WAGE program, adult education programs are partnered with community employers to teach basic educational skills to meet the community's workforce needs.*

Students in the WAGE program may earn three WAGE certificates: Industrial, Clerical, and Employability. Through WAGE, participants master business-and-industry-accepted competencies within each basic skill area as required by each certificate. Instruction is customized to local business and industry needs.

Employers offer job applicants and candidates for promotion added consideration if they have earned a WAGE certificate. Employers also use the WAGE program for existing workers to either help them gain enabling skills required for high-performance work standards and/or prepare them for technical training that requires basic educational skills to be successful.

Other community WAGE alliance members include the Department of Human Services, the Employment Security Department, the Department of Economic Development, Workforce Investment Act boards and other local economic development agencies and boards, postsecondary educational providers, chambers of commerce, and employment training and placement agencies. These partners provide referrals to the WAGE program, as well as assist in promoting the program.

# Adult Education WAGE™ Locations



Adult education basic skills programs are available in every county in Arkansas.

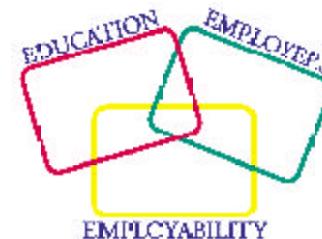
Adult education center locations marked by stars are certified WAGE training centers.

Arkansans who want more information about WAGE or other adult education services should contact their local adult education center.

Once an individual or an employer's educational needs and goals are determined, adult education staff will develop a quality educational plan to meet these needs and goals.

**WAGE and all other adult education programs and services are free.**

Improving the workforce provides support to an employer's competitive edge – better performance on the job means improved products, better services and increased profits. The community as a whole realizes a return on investment when a WAGE graduate is employed – they spend their income in their community and are able to contribute to their community's tax base.



**“Linking Today’s Workforce with Tomorrow’s Jobs”**

**PROBLEMS**

- American businesses are estimated to lose over \$60 billion in productivity each year due to employees' lack of basic educational skills.
- About 20% of America's workers have low basic skills, and 75% of unemployed adults have reading and writing difficulties.
- The number of companies reporting skilled worker shortages more than doubled between 1995 and 1998, from 27% to 57%.

Source: *National Institute for Literacy*

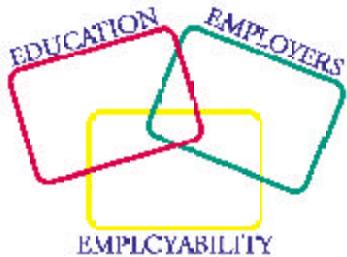
**SOLUTIONS**

*Adult education* can help the employer increase productivity and reduce scrap rate through work-based education.

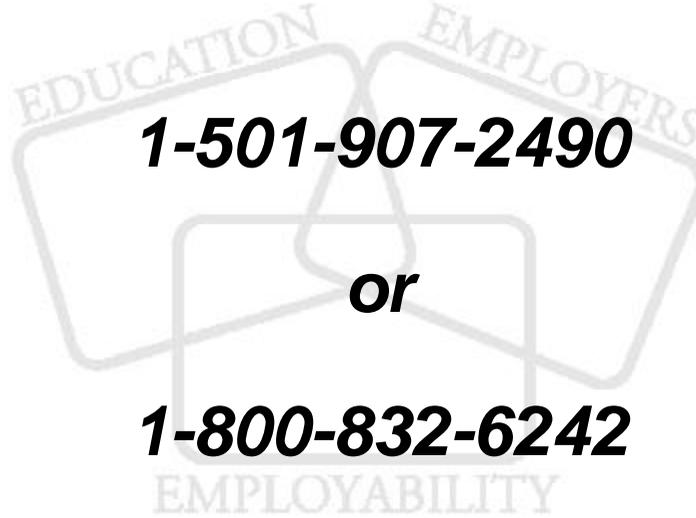
*Adult education* can help the employee gain a job, retain a job, and improve earning through work-based education.

*Adult education* can help the employer overcome the shortage of skilled workers by teaching basic skills within the context of a local community's working environments.

The **Workforce Alliance** for **Growth** in the **Economy**™ program partners local adult education with local business and industry to enhance the basic skills of each community's workforce.



***For more information about WAGE, contact***



**1-501-907-2490**

**or**

**1-800-832-6242**

***or visit the WAGE website at***

**[www.aalrc.org/html/we/wage.html](http://www.aalrc.org/html/we/wage.html)**

The  
Workforce  
Alliance  
for  
Growth  
in  
the  
Economy™  
(WAGE)  
Program



The mission of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education is to provide leadership and contribute resources to serve the diverse and changing workforce training needs of the youth and adults of Arkansas.

