

## Celebrate and Invest: Adult Education and Family Literacy Week #AEFLWEEK

### Need to Invest

Since beginning as a “war on poverty” strategy, adult education and family literacy services have been tied to educational requirements for quality work. Over the years, these requirements have dramatically evolved. In the 1960s and 70s, workers needed eighth grade reading and math skills. In the 1980s through 2000, they needed a high school diploma or equivalency. Today, workers need a postsecondary credential to secure quality jobs.

Unfortunately, since 2001, funding for Adult Education has fallen by 25.3 percent (adjusted for inflation). With investments declining, it's no surprise that international research shows U.S. adults and older youth are lagging behind other countries in math, reading, and problem solving,

In order to compete in the global economy, the U.S. must invest in the AEFLA system. With additional resources, states and higher education institutions can deliver innovative solutions that prepare workers, apprentices, parents, new arrivals, and opportunity youth to be economic contributors.

### Strategy for Investment

**Integrated Education and Training + Supports & Sector focus (IET +S)** can empower individuals, families, and communities with the educational and economic opportunities they need.

**IET:** Integrated Education and Training is a powerful, evidenced-based strategy that builds essential foundational skills in reading, math, English language, and more; provides workforce preparation, including digital skills, self-management, and team work; and delivers occupational training with value in the labor market. In other words, all the skills for which employers are clamoring!

**+S:** Educational innovations alone aren't enough, though. Adults taking on the challenges of working, parenting, and learning need individualized, person-centered **support**. Additionally, IET programs' goals of providing skills with labor market value requires a focus on partnerships with specific industry **sectors** and the specific jobs they have in demand. For these reasons, IET+S is the model in which we should invest.

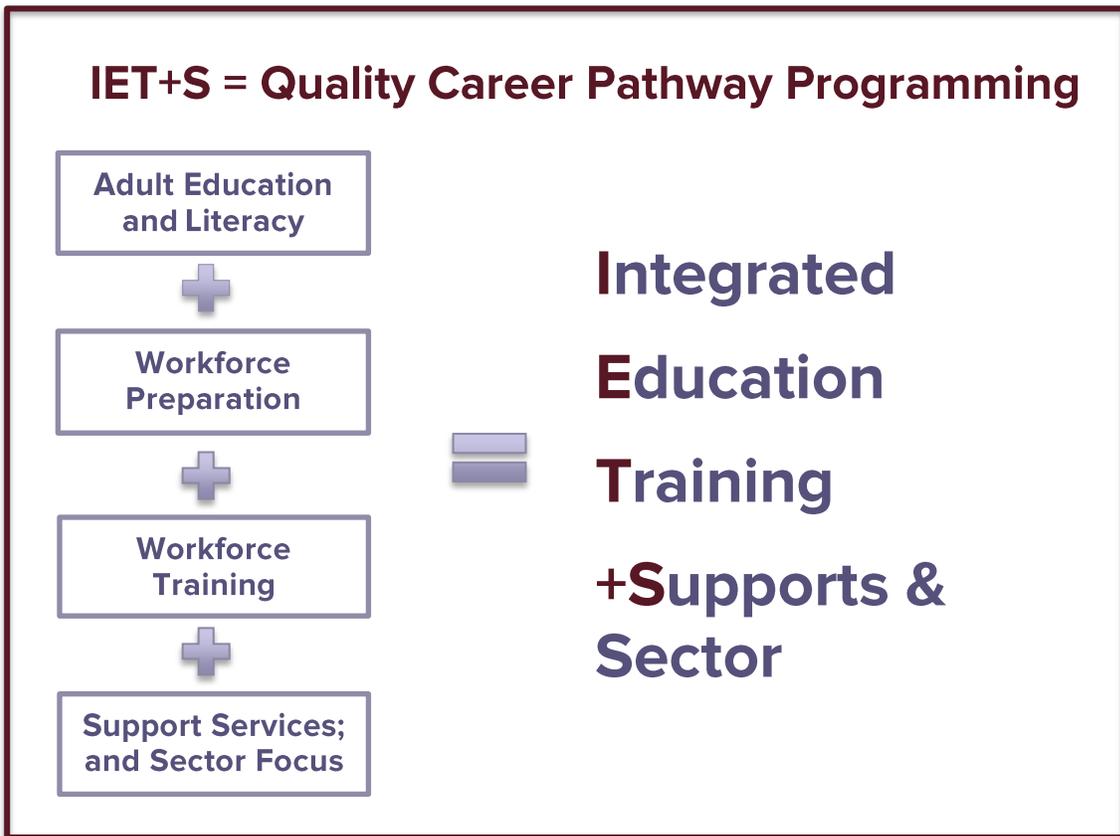
### 2012 PISA Rankings of OECD Countries

#### Mathematics

1. South Korea
2. Japan
3. Switzerland
4. Netherlands
5. Estonia
27. UNITED STATES

#### Reading

1. Japan
2. South Korea
3. Finland
- T4. Canada
- T4. Ireland
17. UNITED STATES



**Now is the Time for Action**

The goal of WIOA is to create a more strongly aligned workforce development system. This can be achieved through career pathways, which provide postsecondary education and training that help adults and youth with barriers to employment secure family-sustaining jobs. IET + S is an effective model for creating healthier, stronger families; economies; and communities.

Adult Education & Family Literacy is a core partner in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—and it is truly *innovating* in these changing times.

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**Do you have examples of IET + S? Questions?**

Contact [Judy Mortrude](#), Senior Policy Analyst

For more information see our [IET + S Opportunities for Action Memo](#)