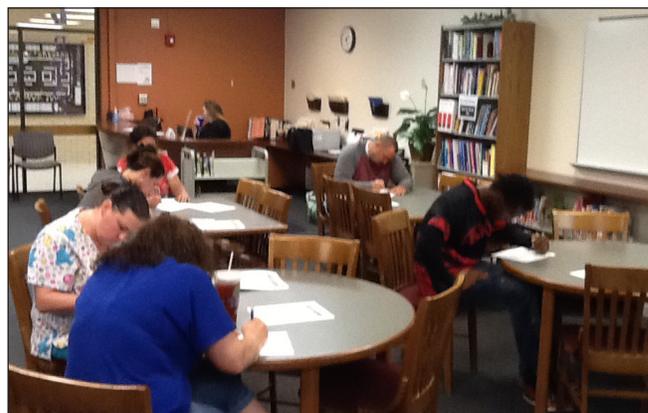


# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 25, 2015

In January, Pickaway-Ross was one of five educational institutions selected by the state Department of Education to develop Adult Diploma Programs, and the Adult Education department has been working diligently to get it off the ground.



The program is an opportunity for people aged 22 or older who do not have a high school diploma or GED to earn a state-issued diploma while also getting technical training in a high-growth, high-demand field.

Adults interested in the Adult Diploma Program attended an information session this summer and completed enrollment paperwork.

Ohio has approximately 1 million citizens with no high school diploma and few prospects for finishing their education.

**Learn more about the program at  
[www.ohioadultdiploma.com](http://www.ohioadultdiploma.com).**

Carrie Fife, Adult Education director, explained recently while on the WBEX radio program Sound-ing Board that children who grow up in poverty are less likely to be at the proper reading level by third grade. Students who can't pass the third-grade reading guarantee are then less likely to finish high school and students who don't finish high school are likely to then live in poverty, continuing the cycle with their children.

Informational sessions have been offered through our ABLE program since August. (For the full schedule, go to [www.pickawayross.com/adulteducation\\_home.aspx](http://www.pickawayross.com/adulteducation_home.aspx).)

Already nearly 50 students have signed up and are pursuing industry credentials in the fields of manufacturing, logistics, nurse aide, phlebotomy, EMT and construction.

Although you don't have to be a parent to qualify, the Adult Diploma Program seeks to break that cycle, Carrie said, by providing entry points into multiple career fields.

In addition to the career focus, the program also provides students with wraparound services, Carrie said, such as study skills, employability skills and job-seeking skills.

"The whole idea here is that we can get someone started. They get their credential and their high school diploma and then they're on a pathway for a career."

Students who complete their program and meet eligibility requirements are then able to access additional grant resources for more education.

Through the summer, Adult Education staff worked to get the word out about the free program.

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