



**SOUTHWEST
RIVERSIDE
ADULT EDUCATION**

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Southwest Riverside Adult Education helps students find their way to a brighter future



FIND YOUR PATHWAY TO PROSPERITY!

Southwest Riverside Adult Education (SRAE)—a collaborative of eight regional K12 adult schools, one county office of education, and Mt. San Jacinto College—is dedicated to advancing economic mobility and educational opportunity across our communities.

Together, we serve adults who are often underrepresented in traditional education systems, including immigrants, low-income individuals, those with limited formal education, formerly incarcerated adults, and older adults returning to the workforce.

In close partnership with local agencies, community-based organizations, and workforce entities such as the Employment

Development Department (EDD) and America's Job Centers of California (AJCC), the consortium delivers high-impact programs that prepare learners for in-demand careers and support them in achieving economic self-sufficiency.

As a critical component of regional workforce development and recovery, adult education remains a powerful pathway to both personal advancement and community growth.

The consortium remains committed to delivering high-impact services that empower learners and strengthen the economic health of the entire region.

MEET THE MEMBERS

- Banning Unified School District
- Beaumont Adult School
- Hemet Adult Education
- Lake Elsinore Unified School District
- Murrieta Valley Adult School
- Mt. San Jacinto College Adult Education
- Perris Community Adult School
- Riverside County Office of Education
- San Jacinto Unified School District
- Temecula Valley Adult School



IT ALL STARTS HERE!

There's not one road to success, and the journey is often not a straight line.

To reach their goals, adult learners can choose several pathways that can lead to a new career, a better job, community college or university degrees, or technical certification.



DECIDE TO PURSUE EDUCATION

Each individual journey starts with that first step. Adult learners may choose one goal – or multiple goals.

FIND AN ADULT SCHOOL OR PROGRAM

Adult education providers are available at no or low cost with flexible schedules and proven success, close to where students live.

CREATE A PLAN TO REACH GOALS

Counselors help adult learners assess their needs and goals. Then, a personalized pathway to those goals is created.

PICK A PROGRAM AND PATHWAYS

Students can follow multiple pathways at once or stick to one program.

ABE: Adult Basic Education helps students gain the literacy and math skills they need to succeed.

CTE/STV: Career and Technical Education, also called Short-Term Vocational training, prepares students for a wide range of skilled, high-paying and high-demand jobs needed by our economy.

ESL: English as a Second Language helps students become proficient in speaking, reading and understanding English while building needed language skills

HSD/HSE: High School Diploma or High School Equivalency lets students fill in gaps in their education and earn their graduation certificate.

IET: Integrated Education and Training combines English literacy with career training. Students learn English including the vocabulary they need for the jobs they want.

IELCE: Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education helps English-language learners at the same time acquire the skills to be more effective parents, workers and citizens.

CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS

Citizenship programs help adult learners prepare for the U.S. naturalization process by building English language skills, strengthening civics knowledge, and increasing confidence in engaging with governmental systems. These programs support learners in understanding their rights and responsibilities, navigating the application process, and participating more fully in civic and community life.

MAKE PROGRESS

Students can see the progress they've made with their new skills and confidence. They may earn a short-term certificate, diploma or high school equivalency certificate.

SUCCESS!

Education, degrees, and certificates open doors to in-demand careers.

BETTER JOB!
BETTER PAY!
BETTER LIFE!



SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Southwest Riverside consortium looks to build capacity, provide smooth transitions to careers and further education for adult learners

BY JACOB PETERSON

Since its creation a decade ago, the Southwest Riverside Adult Education (SRAE) consortium has been dedicated to building partnerships and capacity in order to best serve the roughly 7,000 students who annually enroll in its member schools.

Nohora Vazquez, the co-director of SRAE and principal of Valley Adult School in Lake Elsinore, says the consortium came about in 2015 as a result of Assembly Bill 104. The bill changed how adult education was funded in the state, and mandated the formation of the California Adult Education Program and regional consortia. SRAE was one of 71 adult education consortia established in California through this legislation.

"CAEP provides ongoing dedicated state funding to adult ed, with the funds being distributed to our regional consortia who determine local priorities through a collaborative planning process," says Jasmine Port, fellow SRAE co-director and director of adult education at Mt. San Jacinto College. "The Southwest Riverside consortium is composed of 10 member agencies—one community college, eight K-12 districts and one county office of education through their jail system."

The creation of the consortium and partnership between the various member agencies has allowed these schools to better leverage their resources for the benefit of students, Vazquez says.

"By working together we are able to make opportunities for all the students in our community," Vazquez says. "Leveraging our resources allows us to provide students

"This regional model helps us foster those pathways throughout our region where we can coordinate our transition services, including counseling and career navigation," Port says.

Facilitating a smoother transition between the schools, college and workforce is an important goal of the consortium, with the idea being that

"The Southwest Riverside consortium is composed of 10 member agencies—one community college, eight K-12 districts and one county office of education through their jail system."

Jasmine Port, Co-director, Southwest Riverside Adult Education

with counseling services, with workforce placement, with educational services."

As part of these educational services, SRAE provides a wide variety of programs for students, including high school completion, English as a second language and citizenship preparation. Career technical education (CTE) and workforce preparation are also two important aspects of the consortium's offerings.

a student can finish one program and move to the next step in a quick and easy manner.

"These K-12 adult school agencies, they work diligently to align their programs as an onramp to potential post-secondary transitions to MSJC, as the college within our consortium," Port says. "It is a true collaborative model."



As co-directors of Southwest Riverside Adult Education, Nohora Vazquez and Jasmine Port oversee the consortium's ongoing efforts to best serve the roughly 7,000 students who enroll at SRAE member schools annually. *Photo by Andrew Foulk*

BUILDING CAPACITY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Creating these better transition services are a big part of what the consortium refers to as building capacity, referring to an effort to better reach the goals its member schools have set in their efforts to benefit the community.

"We've done certain consortium-wide efforts such as really intense professional development training to better serve students in these programs," Port says. "It's one of the efforts we've initiated as a consortium to become better practitioners, to build our capacity in the classroom, as administrators and as support staff."

Vazquez noted that building capacity has also meant expanding programs to meet the educational needs in a given area. She stressed that it was important to analyze and identify gaps where they could do better.

One of the consortium's primary goals is providing students an entry way into the workforce, something they try to facilitate through local partnerships with groups like Riverside County Workforce Development.

"SRAE recognizes that strong partnerships are essential to expanding access to education and workforce opportunities for adult learners" Port says.

These partnerships are vital to connecting students to careers through training and job placement programs. The alliance also gives SRAE a better view of the region's workforce needs, helping them develop programs and better build

"By working together we are able to make opportunities for all the students in our community. Leveraging our resources allows us to provide students with counseling services, with workforce placement, with educational services."

Nohora Vazquez, Co-director, Southwest Riverside Adult Education

capacity. Strengthening these partnerships through data sharing, collaboration and regular communication is also an important goal.

"Through these efforts, SRAE is building a robust ecosystem where adult learners

can transition seamlessly from education to employment, contributing to the economic vitality of the region," Port says.

The consortium also works towards supporting reentry for incarcerated students, doing so with targeted programs like high school diploma and GED preparation. This work is often done in tandem with the Riverside County Office of Education Jail Program.

"We recognize the unique barriers these students face, and member schools have targeted programs that support reentry, skill development, and long-term career success" Port says.

Through expanding and building capacity, SRAE has managed to come a long way since its establishment, and looks to continue its growth going forward. While always looking to improve, Vazquez notes that she is proud of the work they have accomplished so far.

"We are in a good place, we feel that the team is solid and everyone is working towards common goals."

To learn more about Southwest Riverside Adult Education and its members, visit sradulted.org.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES KNOCKING

SRAE member schools open doorways to new careers for adult students

BY JACOB PETERSON



Zachery Cain, who teaches welding for San Jacinto Adult School, says skilled workers can make a good living if they are properly trained and certified. *Photo by Andrew Foulk*

An important aspect of Southwest Riverside Adult Education is its commitment to transitioning students from the classroom to the workforce, something it prepares them for with their various career technical education (CTE) courses.

One student to benefit from these career pathways is Samantha Precie, who is currently taking courses at the Beaumont Adult School to become a vocational nurse. She previously graduated from the school's tuition-free medical assisting program. Her husband is also a graduate of the school's fee-based vocational nursing program.

"Towards the end of his program, he was made aware by one of the teachers there that she was going to be having a medical assisting program enrolling that summer, and it was going to be free," Precie says. "We thought we might as well give it a shot, see what happens."

Precie enrolled, and says the courses were very practical, and that the work in the classroom prepared her perfectly for the program's externship portion, where students get hands-on training at a local medical facility.

"The confidence that I had during the externship was solely because of what I learned in the classroom," Precie says. "We had skills portions where we learn about something and then we practice the skill. For me, personally, that's where I feel like I was able to hone in on something that I really liked."

Precie says that many of the skills she learned as a medical assistant carry over to what's required of a vocational nurse, and her work as a medical



Samantha Precie says earning her medical assisting certificate at Beaumont Adult School helped her get her foot in the door of the healthcare industry, leading her to pursue more opportunities in the field. *Photo by Frank Perez*

assistant helped reinforce her current choice of career pathway.

"It's kind of a big crossover and I feel a medical assistant is one of those positions that are looked over," Precie says. "People aren't aware that's a position that you could have in the medical field."

Currently, Precie works as a school nurse for a local charter school, balancing it with her current classes at Beaumont Adult School. She credits the school for opening up opportunities for her, including creating a clear career pathway from medical assisting to vocational nursing.

"I would definitely recommend an adult school, especially seeing my husband go through the program, he's had such extreme success," Precie says. "The instructors are incredible and they're very knowledgeable. A lot of them have a lot of actual experience in their fields."

REAL WORLD INSTRUCTION

Finding an instructor who is not only qualified to teach but also has experience in their field isn't always easy, but it's invaluable to student success as they move along their career pathways. One of SRAE's instructors who meets these standards is Zachery Cain, a welding instructor for San Jacinto Adult School.

"I came into San Jacinto High School six years ago and started this welding program," Cain says. "I've had experience in the welding field along with a teaching credential, and having both of those is kind of tough for them to find."

Cain started the adult welding program last year. The adult classes are held at the high school's welding facility, which

"The confidence that I had during the externship was solely because of what I learned in the classroom."

Samantha Precie, Student, Beaumont Adult School

Cain has worked hard to develop into a top-notch workspace since he's been there.

Cain implements certification into his courses, both for teens and adults, pointing it out as a valuable part of the career pathway program. He's earned multiple certifications himself, and notes doing so is essential for obtaining better pay and advancement opportunities.

"There are tons of welders out there that are welding but they're not certified, so their company will not pay them as much" Cain says. "Additionally, there are a lot of jobs out there that you just can't do unless you are certified."

Cain says that there are a lot of openings in the job market for trained and certified workers, not just in welding but for skilled labor in general. He says he's seen multiple students enter into the workforce with well-paying jobs almost immediately after completing his course.

"I have maintenance workers here at our district that took my course and they used their welding certificates to get higher maintenance positions," Cain says.

The welding and medical assistant career pathways are just some of the options provided by SRAE through CTE programs at its member schools. These programs are tuition free and include courses in business communication; child development; communications; construction; culinary arts; healthcare; and light duty automotive.

For detailed information on specific CTE programs, certifications, and registration processes, please visit sradulted.org/career-technical-education.



A STRONG FOUNDATION

Adult students share the positive impacts of completing English as a second language, high school diploma and citizenship courses

BY ANNE STOKES



After immigrating from Ethiopia in 2016, Nebila Abdullahi found help improving her English and preparing for her U.S. citizenship test at Valley Adult School in Lake Elsinore. *Photo by Andrew Foulk*

It's the American Dream to get an education, work hard and prosper, but sometimes, life gets in the way. At Southwest Riverside Adult Education (SRAE) schools, adult learners can get their education back on track and build a solid foundation for a new life.

NEW COUNTRY, NEW LIFE

Even under the best of circumstances, moving to a new country is hard: Learning new languages and customs can make everyday tasks like going to the supermarket or driving to work challenging. Valley Adult School in Lake Elsinore offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by instructors who want to see their students succeed.

"You don't have to be perfect, just take that first step, and you will learn more and feel more confident."

Nebila Abdullahi, Advanced ESL Student, Valley Adult School

"We all have goals when we come here as an immigrant, you don't have to just sit around," says Nebila Abdullahi. "You do have to focus on things and improve your English and get a job."

Abdullahi immigrated from Ethiopia in 2016 and has been hard at work since. She's currently an advanced ESL student earning her high school diploma (although she has the equivalent degree from Ethiopia) and is also completing caregiver and child development courses at the school. And, in 2023, she earned her U.S. citizenship.



Lupita Ramirez Morales earned her high school diploma and took English as a second language classes at Perris Community Adult School, and says doing so has positively impacted her career. *Photo by Andrew Foulk*

Even with kids at home, she's also working as a caregiver, a similar career to the one she had before coming to the U.S. Through her new education, her goal is to go into the healthcare or social work field.

"It was very hard going back to school as a mother, but it was important for me to improve my English and get a better job to take care of myself and my family," she says, adding that learning English has boosted her self confidence. "I can help my kids with their homework and talk with their teachers at school, and I've learned to write and speak and be confident."

Abdullahi advises others not to be afraid of taking the necessary steps to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

"Everyone learns at their own pace and the teachers are very patient and helpful," she says. "I was nervous at first, too, but I'm so glad I joined the ESL class. You don't have to be perfect, just take that first step, and you will learn more and feel more confident."

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Lupita Ramirez Morales felt stuck at work. She wanted to advance into management, but didn't have the high school diploma she needed. Thanks to Perris Community Adult School (PCAS)—and her own hard work—today she's working as a supervisor, with higher management positions in her sights.

After a friend told her about the opportunities available through PCAS' programs, Ramirez Morales enrolled in both the high school diploma and English as a second language (ESL) programs. She did so well the administration asked her to give the commencement speech at her June 2024 graduation. But going back to school, earning her diploma and learning English while working was not easy.

"Believe in yourself and take it one day at a time. It's never too late to keep learning and move forward."

Lupita Ramirez Morales, Graduate, Perris Community Adult School

"The hardest part is the English language, being challenged to fully understand and express myself," she says. "It was hard, especially after work ... but if you want to do it, you can."

Ramirez Morales says the key to balancing her work and school was PCAS' flexible schedule and support from her teachers.

"The flexibility of the program allowed me to learn at my own pace, and it helped me stay focused and motivated," she says,

adding that her teachers were always available when she had questions. "They understood my struggles with English as well, and they were patient and kind."

Ramirez Morales says she's not done learning yet. Even though she's graduated and her career is on an upward path, she is continuing her education and working on her English skills.

"There's more room for improvement," she says. "I'm focusing on this because I know I can do better."

She encourages others to go back to school, even though it may be difficult. She says taking small steps—like enrolling in one class at a time—makes things easier to handle.

"My advice is not to be afraid to take that first step. You know, it's normal to feel nervous, but you're not alone. There are teachers and staff who truly want to help you to succeed," she says. "No matter where you starting from, just stay focused on your goals. Believe in yourself and take it one day at a time. It's never too late to keep learning and move forward."

To find a school near you or for more information on how Southwest Riverside Adult Education can help you achieve your goals, visit [sradulted.org](https://www.sradulted.org).



FINDING THE RIGHT PATH

Southwest Riverside Adult Education's faculty and staff are dedicated to helping guide students towards a better future

BY ANNE STOKES



Chris Rivard moved to adult education after more than two decades of teaching elementary students, and now serves as lead teacher at Temecula Valley Adult School. *Photo by Andrew Foulk*

Adult students face adult struggles: Work schedules, affordable childcare and financial hardship are just some of those obstacles. But at Southwest Riverside Adult Education (SRAE), dedicated staff and teachers are there to meet students where they are with support and an education tailored to fit their life.

SUPPORT INSIDE AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

For many immigrant parents, their children are often the ones speaking for the family. Whether it's for school, medical appointments or asking questions at the supermarket, English-speaking, second-generation kids bear a heavy load as translators.

"It's a joy to work with such a wide range of ages and backgrounds."

Chris Rivard, Lead Teacher, Temecula Valley Adult School

It's a dynamic Yolanda Gomez recognizes from first-hand experience and—as the adult education community outreach liaison at Hemet Adult School—it's something she's dedicated to helping families overcome.

"Their kids will have more opportunities because their parents now have more opportunities themselves," she says. "The better equipped they are, the more informed and educated they are, and the better they can be part of the community. Then we all benefit because we're stronger as a community. It's about quality of life, not only for themselves, but the community as a whole."



Yolanda Gomez's dedication to her job and care for the consortium's students led her to be named Classified Employee of the Year for the 2024/2025 school year. Photo courtesy of Hemet Adult School

Throughout SRAE, dedicated staff and educators support students navigating obstacles inside and out of the classroom. Gomez says she sees many students struggling with childcare, food insecurity, housing, transportation and more. As she sees it, her job is to help students build a secure foundation so they can get an education and improve their lives. And she's good at her job: Gomez was named Classified Employee of the Year for the 2024/2025 school year.

"I treat them as I would want anybody to treat my mom and dad, my siblings, my cousins, anybody who is struggling. I treat others as I would like my loved ones to be treated," she says. "You don't quit, we don't quit. We got you. We're going to walk with you every step of the way. We're going to get you there."

The most rewarding part of her job, she says, is seeing students' transformations. Many come in feeling embarrassed or discouraged, but that changes through hard work, perseverance and support from people like Gomez.

"What you're feeling as far as guilt and shame, all that is normal. I can assure you everything that you're feeling, every single student that started felt it too," she says. "Whatever has happened in the past, it's done ... you get to determine for yourself what your tomorrow looks like."

FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

As lead teacher at Temecula Valley Adult School, Chris Rivard is a jack-of-all-trades, teaching general education—math, history, English, science and more—to adult students earning their high school diplomas. For the past 23 years he's helped mold the minds of elementary school kids, and says the move to adult education has been an amazing change for him.

"You don't quit, we don't quit. We got you. We're going to walk with you every step of the way. We're going to get you there."

**Yolanda Gomez, Adult Education
Community Outreach Liaison, Hemet
Adult School**

"We have people in their 30s and 40s, even a 66-year-old lady taking classes, just doing the best she can to knock out a class at a time," he says. "It's a joy to work with such a wide range of ages and backgrounds. This is a complete 180 and I just welcomed it with open arms."

Rivard says one of the biggest obstacles many students face is having too many responsibilities on their plate:

Work, family and school are a challenge to balance. He also understands it takes courage for people to come back to school. He encourages them to be persistent and patient with themselves.

"It's like anything in life—whether it's a diet or an exercise program—it's tough," he says. "You may not be able to do the courses as quickly as you would like ... but you will get there, and at the end you're going to be able to get that promotion or a better job."

Rivard says the type of opportunities adult schools provide are vital for students looking to take those next steps in life, whether it's to enroll in college, find new career opportunities or set the best example possible for their families.

"The adults that truly want to complete their diploma—they want to take the next steps in their life but they're being held up because they don't have this diploma—are truly motivated," he says. "They work hard and it's very gratifying for me to watch them cross the finish line and accomplish something meaningful."

For more information on how Southwest Riverside Adult Education can help you achieve your goals, or to find a member school near you, visit sradulted.org.



SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE ADULT EDUCATION

Southwest Riverside Adult Education (SRAE) brings learning to the students who need it most

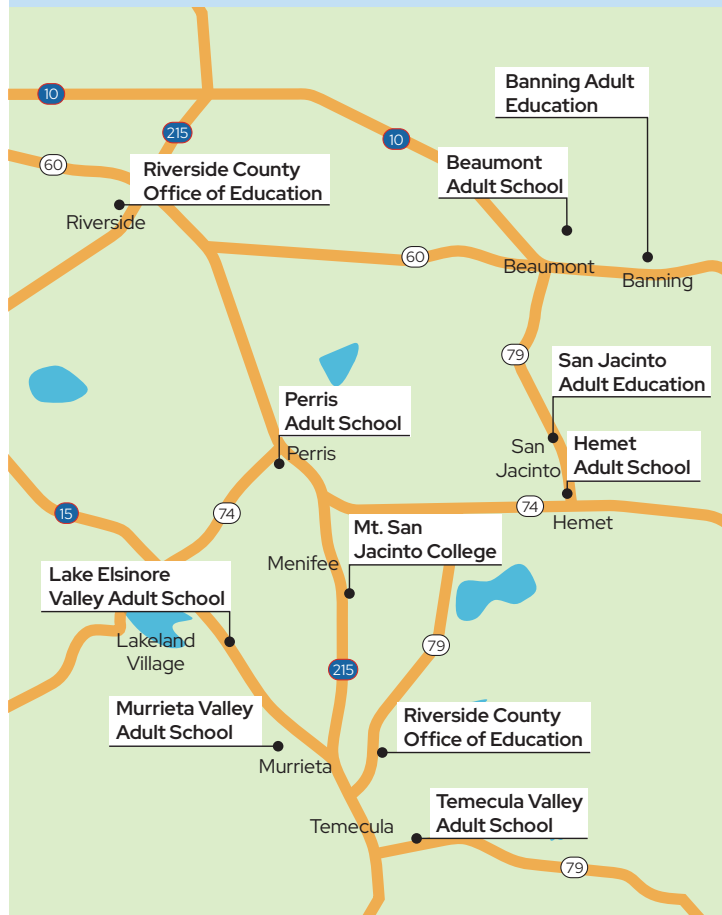
Southwest Riverside Adult Education (SRAE) is a collaborative of regional adult schools and K-12 school districts, the Riverside County Office of Education and Mt. San Jacinto College, and offers programs in English as a second language, high school diploma and equivalency, citizenship, career technical education, workforce preparation and more.

These programs help adult students find better jobs, attain citizenship, earn their high school diplomas and prepare for further educational opportunities. SRAEC has the classes and support services students need to succeed.

Southwest Riverside Adult Education (SRAE)

28237 La Piedra Road, Menifee, CA 92584

sradulted.org/southwest-riverside-adult-education



CLASS OFFERINGS

Agency	ESL	HSE/ HSD	CITZ.	CTE	Workforce Prep
Banning Adult Education banning.k12.ca.us (951) 922-2740 x260015 1151 W. Wilson St. Banning, CA 92220	×				
Beaumont Adult School bas.beaumont.us (951) 845-6912 1575 Cherry Ave. Beaumont, CA 92223	×	×	×	×	
Hemet Adult School hemetadultschool.org (951) 765-5190 831 E. Devonshire Ave. Hemet, CA 92543	×	×	×	×	×
Lake Elsinore Valley Adult School vas.leusd.k12.ca.us (951) 253-7460 2133 Lemon St. Wildomar, CA 92595	×	×	×	×	×
Mt. San Jacinto College msjc.edu/adulted (951) 487-3707 28237 La Piedra Rd. Menifee, CA 92584	×	×	×	×	×
Murrieta Valley Adult School murrieta.k12.ca.us (951) 696-3805 x5099 24150 Hayes Ave. Murrieta, CA 92562	×	×	×		
Perris Adult School perrisadultschool.org (951) 657-7357 x30801 418 W. Ellis Ave., Room 112 Perris, CA 92570		×		×	
Riverside County Office of Education 3939 Thirteenth St. Riverside, CA 92501 38670 Sky Canyon Dr., Ste. 200 Murrieta, CA 92563	×	×			
San Jacinto Adult Education adulted.sanjacinto.k12.ca.us (951) 487-7710 1000 N. Ramona Blvd. San Jacinto, CA 92582		×			×
Temecula Valley Adult School tvas.tvusd.k12.ca.us (951) 294-6512 32225 Pio Pico Rd. Temecula, CA 92592		×			