



# Unlocking California's Workforce Potential: How Millions of Adults with Some College Can Help Solve the State's Shortage

To keep California competitive and tackle our workforce shortages, we must support determined working adults by offering access to low-cost, high-quality, schedule-flexible, online education.

75%

of Californians support making state financial aid available to residents who wish to attend a non-profit college or university that is 100% online.

79%

of Californians believe adult learners with families, work, and other responsibilities need the flexibility of a 24/7 online college education that works for them and meets their needs at their own pace.

77%

of residents believe that "California is in desperate need of more qualified teachers. Expanding eligibility for financial aid and scholarships to more Californians in order to attend an accredited, non-profit online university or college in these fields will benefit the state."<sup>1</sup>



## California's Bold Steps to Address Teacher Shortages and Enhance Learning Opportunities.

- 75% of school districts in the state suffer from a severe shortage of fully trained teachers, leading to classroom closures, along with increased retirements.<sup>2</sup>
- According to the California School Boards Association, we need approximately 100,000 new teachers to provide high-quality education for our state's students.<sup>3</sup>
- For Californians to pursue further education or certification to re-enter the workforce, key changes include overcoming financial barriers, offering 24/7 flexible courses, and online accessibility for remote working learners.



## Connecting working adults to accessible and flexible educational options is key to bridging the state's workforce gap.

- **Over 50% of California's adults** need more education, ranking the state's school system 44th in the nation.<sup>4</sup>
- **50% of Californians aged 25-54** do not have a form of certification and 5.1 million—nearly a fifth of the adult population—need and seek additional education.
- **50% of working adults** are keen on returning to school if they get equitable access that suits their busy lives.
- California adult learners with families have work and other responsibilities, and need the flexibility of a 24/7 online education that meets their needs at their own pace.

<sup>1</sup>To Better Serve Adult Learners, Eliminate the Barriers Between Work and Learning. EdSurge, 30 Jan. 2020 <sup>2</sup>California Higher Education Values and Priorities. Heart + Mind Strategies, January 2023 <sup>3</sup>California Has Heavily Invested in Recruiting High-Quality Teachers. It Can't Stop Now. EdSource, 7 Apr. 2023 <sup>4</sup>New study finds California schools ranking 44 in America, KUSI News, 6 Apr. 2022