



There are 1.1 million persons over the age of 25 who currently do not have a high school or GED® diploma. The mission of the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Adult Education (OAE) is to enable every adult learner in Georgia to acquire the necessary basic skills—reading, writing, computation, speaking, and listening—to compete successfully in today’s workplace, strengthen family foundations, and exercise full citizenship. OAE recognizes the shared responsibility of addressing educational and other needs of adults. Through successful collaborative efforts, OAE will award 40,000 GED diplomas annually in the near future.

A recent survey conducted by the GED Testing Service® of the American Council on Education® identified several major influencers of the OAE target population, among them religion and faith-based activities, fitness, and shopping. In consideration of this data, OAE seeks to engage respective entities in promoting and supporting approved adult education programs and Official GED Testing Centers in Georgia through the Community Outreach Program (COP). COP participants across the state will host a one-day symposium as their culminating activity.

The first symposium brought together faith-based leaders and their education/outreach staff. Then known as the Ecumenical Outreach Program (EOP) Symposium, this inaugural gathering empowered over 100 attendees with information and resources to initiate or expand support of local adult education programs. The EOP Symposium was held on September 8, 2009, in Decatur, Georgia, at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, and was hosted by Pastor Jerry D. Black (Beulah) with U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson acting as honorary co-host. Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Michael L. Thurmond served as the keynote speaker.

With guidance and support from a TCSG-sponsored steering committee, COP Symposiums will be planned regionally to convene local leaders in businesses, civic, education, community-based organizations, and faith-based entities to provide information related to statewide approved adult education programs and Official GED Testing Centers. COP symposium participants will acquire tools, resources, and best practices to reach adults who might benefit from OAE services. Local planning teams will determine the goals and objectives for their respective regional symposiums.

For more information email cop@tcsg.edu or call 404-679-4959