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Attachments: Brookings_Investing_in_EnglishSkills_Sep22.pdf (6052K)

NAEPDC

News, Views, and Clues

October 5, 2014

Investing in English Skills

Thanks to Gene Sofer, NAEPDC Government Relations, for calling our attention to an excellent resource in a Brookings Institute (www.brookings.edu) September 24, 2014 report entitled:

Investing in English Skills: The Limited English Proficient Workforce in U.S. Metropolitan Areas

- <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2014/09/english-skills#/M10580>
- A copy is also attached.

A few of their findings include:

- **Nearly one in 10 working-age U.S. adults—19.2 million persons aged 16 to 64—is considered limited English proficient (LEP).**
- **Working-age LEP adults earn 25 to 40 percent less than their English proficient counterparts.**
- 60% of LEP adults have a high school diploma in their home country
- 15% have a college degree
- There are advantages of ESOL integrated with training (it mentions I-BEST on page 28).

Their conclusion (page 31) includes: (underline added):

English proficiency is the most essential means of opening doors to economic opportunity for immigrant workers in the United States. Relying on LEP adults to “pick up the language” is not an efficient strategy for improving their labor market outcomes in the near term. Rather, increasing the investment in adult English instruction now would enhance the human capital of immigrants and lead to more productive work—benefiting whole families—sooner. National, state, and regional leaders have an opportunity to enhance the human capital and economic mobility of their current and future workforce by investing in adult English instruction through more funding, targeted outreach, and innovative instruction. Given the large number of LEP workers in the United States and the fact that virtually all of the growth in the U.S. labor force over the next four decades is projected to come from

immigrants and their children, it is in our collective interest to tackle this challenge.

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Keep up the good work. Let me know when we can help.

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A Natural Resource For Adult Education State Directors and their Staff Members

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