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Hello, my name is Amanda Hass, and I live in Montpelier. I am a teacher and community coordinator at the Montpelier Learning Center of Central Vermont Adult Education. We have 6 learning centers in Washington, Orange and Lamoille counties and are one of the four statewide non-profit organizations in the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) network.

Please support and enact the legislative changes recommended in the Adult Education & Literacy High School Completion Student Access Report.

Our students are at the center of our work, and we know that success looks different for every student, which is why our programming and activities are specifically tailored to each student's unique needs and goals.

For example, I work with English language learners, and one of my students is working diligently to obtain her GED. Though her English speaking skills are high intermediate, she did not attend school past the 3rd grade in her home country. Therefore, we have had to adapt the standard GED curriculum to her current learning level and needs to help bridge the gap of her being a non-native English speaker. Once she obtains her GED, she plans to take business classes to fulfill her dream of opening an Asian grocery store and deli here in Montpelier.

Meanwhile, I am helping a group of Afghan men read through the CDL manual, while also teaching their wives how to read and write for the first time with hopes of being able to obtain their own high school credential one day.

We know that increasing literacy in reading, writing, math, and/or technology will open opportunities for students. Therefore, we help them acquire the specific knowledge and confidence needed to achieve their goals and become an active and central force in their own lives.

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Thank you for listening.