

to distribute as Literacy Works grants for adult education and literacy services; and generally relating to funding for adult education and literacy services.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 5–218

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY adding to

~~Article – Education~~

~~Section 5–218~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)~~

#### Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The economy of Maryland requires an educated workforce to be competitive with other states; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Almost 1,000,000 out of school youth and adults need a high school diploma, need to learn to communicate in English, or need to improve basic literacy skills; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State Assessment of Adult Literacy, published by the American Institutes for Research in December 2005, reported 1,500,000 Maryland adults with literacy skills at only the basic or below basic level; and~~

~~WHEREAS, 44% of adults with below basic literacy skills are not in the labor force; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Maryland provides adult education and literacy services to only 3% to 4% of the target population; and~~

~~WHEREAS, There is a high demand for adult education and literacy services with waiting lists of at least 5,000 people annually; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Maryland's investment in adult education and literacy is not competitive with other states; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Maryland's per student investment is 84% below the average of other East Coast states and less than all East Coast states except Rhode Island; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The General Assembly directed the State Superintendent of Schools to propose a funding formula for adult education; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State Superintendent of Schools appointed the Superintendent's Panel on Excellence in Adult Education with leadership from the business community, labor, primary and secondary education, higher education, local~~