

The New Bedford Literacy Gap

- **The Problem**
 - A workforce of the future in need of critical education, language, and technical skills
 - Urban high schools with low graduation rates
 - Lengthy waiting lists for adult education
- **The Results**
 - Companies that cannot recruit and retain qualified workers
 - Drop outs who drain social services rather than contributing to them
 - A net loss of workers to fill jobs for growing employers
- **The Root Causes**
 - Relatively low socio-economic status of city residents vis-à-vis the state as a whole, which translates to higher crime, more single-parent households, low educational attainment
 - A system that struggles to meet needs
- **The Solution**
 - Business-Public Partnerships
 - Adequate funding to meet the need
 - Early intervention
 - Innovative legislation
 - Successful models

