

# 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

