

# QCC receives 50% bump in funding for adult education center, English language courses

[By Isabel Tehan](#)

Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester has secured \$9 million in state government funding over five years for its Adult Community Learning Center, which will allow for the hiring of more instructors and additional seats for approximately 140 English-language learner students.

The funding from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education supports the center's work in providing free English as a second language education and courses helping adults prepare to take high school equivalency exams. The \$1.8 million per year is guaranteed for five years, according to a Monday press release from QCC. Previously, the college received \$1.2 million per year.

The increased funding and staffing will help address a waitlist for the educational programming, which has 400 waiting, according to the press release. Students enrolled in the program have access to

case managers through QCC, who assist with academic and personal needs.

“The case managers help bridge the needs of English learners. When a student is absent, they reach out to see how they can help,” QCC ESL instructor Jay Villagómez said in the press release. “It makes a world of difference, especially for students who are separated from their home cultures and could be floundering during their initial years in the country.”