PLA is the future of adult learning – here's why:

What is PLA?

Prior Learning Assessment – commonly known as PLA or Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) – is a powerful tool that can help learners achieve their educational goals more quickly and effectively. PLA refers to several different programs that offer credit for learning and experience gained outside of the traditional academic environment.

Common PLA Types

Exams
Test-based assessments to demonstrate knowledge

Portfolio Review
Evaluator conducts review of materials and awards credit

Review of Training and Military Crosswalks
Used to evaluate non-credit training and certifications

Demonstration of Skill
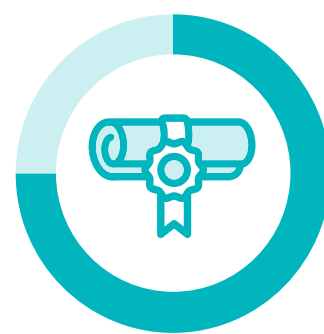Evaluator watches learner perform task and awards credit

The issues:

Between **16-54M** workers may need to switch to a different occupational group by 2030.

Since 1993, **36M** Americans have left college without receiving a degree or certificate.

75% of Americans would be more likely to enroll in higher education if they could receive credit for their knowledge and skills.
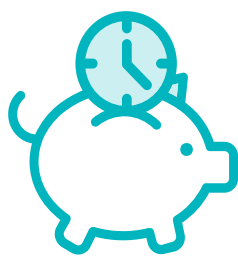
How PLA can help:

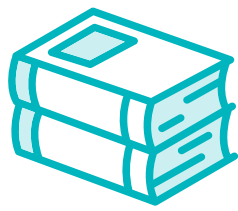Learners with PLA credit are **2.5 times** more likely to graduate.

Learners who utilize PLA save between **2 and 12 months** when earning a degree.

PLA helps students achieve on average **9.9+ credits** when earning a degree.

PLA credits are often awarded for non-major classes – allowing learners to dedicate more time to career specific coursework.

PLA is critical for the Future of Work

PLA directly contributes to workforce mobility by giving experienced workers a path to in-demand degrees and credentials from academic institutions. Many workers will carry decades of valuable experience that didn't result in a specific degree or credential. Creating and promoting systems that translate this experience into universally recognizable credentials is applicable to all industries and can help head off the growing skills gap.