Adult Education
In Louisiana Shows Progress

Statistics released here Monday show 1,558 persons received high school "equivalency diplomas" last fiscal year under the adult education program of the State Department of Education.

The program, conducted at night in some 300 high schools in almost every parish in the state, is designed for persons at least 19 years old who dropped out of school before getting their high school diplomas.

During the past year, 10,190 adults were enrolled under the program. In addition to the 1,558 who were graduated, 7,817 were listed as "upgrading" themselves and 825 learning to read and write.

According to a recent survey made by the department, the average age of male enrollees is 27 and the average age of females is 35. More than 85 percent of all those attending adult classes are married.

Approximately 30 per cent of the graduates use their diplomas to either go on to college or to enter vocational-technical schools.

The figures show that graduates increased their incomes by an average of $1,000 a year over what they were earning when they enrolled.

Alexis Larriviere, the department's director of adult education, completed the figures.

Larriviere explained there is no limit on the progress a student can make, some having been known to rise from fifth grade level to 12th grade graduation in one year. The average, however, is completion of two grades a year, he said.

Larriviere said persons wishing to apply for the coming school year should contact their parish school superintendent or go to a high school principal.