



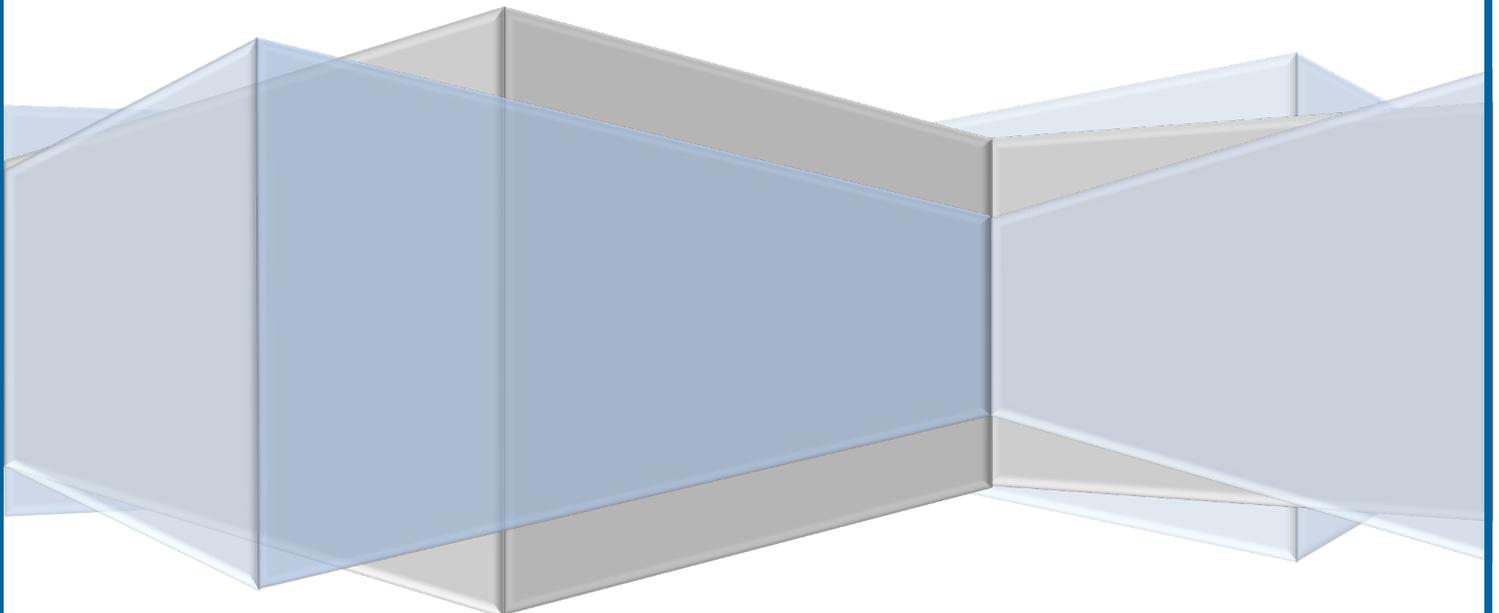
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# FY 2021 ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

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## **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



**ILLINOIS  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE BOARD  
FY2021  
ADULT EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Dr. Lazaro Lopez**  
Chair

**Dr. Brian Durham**  
Executive Director

**Jennifer K. Foster**  
Deputy Executive  
Director

**Whitney Thompson**  
Deputy Director for  
Workforce Education

**Dr. Kathy Olesen-  
Tracey**  
Senior Director for  
Adult Education and  
Literacy

Illinois Community  
College Board  
401 East Capitol  
Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois  
62701-1711

Voice 217-785-0123  
TDD 217-782-5645  
FAX 217-524-4981

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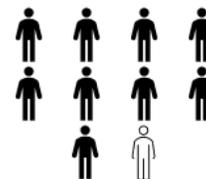
## ICCB'S PROMISE FOR ILLINOIS ADULT EDUCATION

The *Expanding Career Pathways Opportunities in Adult Education: Strategic Directions for Illinois, Strategic Five-Year Plan's* Vision Statement reflects the Illinois Community College Board's (ICCB) commitment to adult education. "In partnership with other stakeholders, we will create learning opportunities that align with statewide education, training, and employment strategies to ensure all adult learners have access to and success across services that are cohesive, coordinated, and innovative to promote better economic opportunities, greater equity, and sustainable career pathways." Economic and demographic changes are dramatically increasing the need for adult education, literacy, and English Language Acquisition programs. Millions of Illinois residents lack the literacy skills that they need to obtain good jobs and to function well in an increasingly complex society. To address the scope and diversity of need for adult education and literacy skills by both individuals and employers requires a strategy involving a variety of providers. Community colleges, public schools, community-based organizations, and others each are uniquely suited to provide the education and services needed by various groups of adult learners.

### Purpose of Adult Education

The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Literacy Act (AELA), Title II of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, is to create a partnership among the federal government, states and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who are at least 16 years of age, who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law, who are basic skills deficient, who do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, who have not achieved an equivalent level of education, or who are English language learners. The most recent data for Illinois residents indicate the following:

Over **1 million** of 10.3 million Illinoisans over the age of 16 **have less than 12 grades of formal education**. Included in this number are over **400,000** individuals over age 16 with **less than a 9th grade education**.<sup>(1)</sup>



Over **2.7 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English** as the primary language in their homes. Over **400,000 of these individuals** are over 16 and **lack the English literacy skills necessary for entry and advancement in the labor force**.<sup>(1)</sup>

More than **300,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois**. English literacy and civics education provide individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education, and employment.<sup>(1)</sup>



### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Title II—Adult Education Activities

The ICCB is the state-level entity responsible for Title II, a member of the state of Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB), and is represented on all state-level major Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act workgroups and committees.

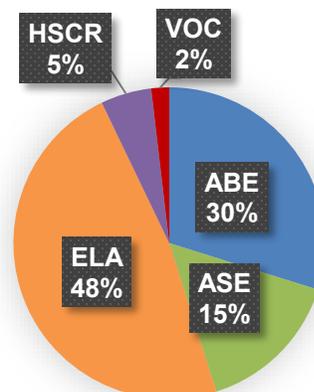
Title-II-funded providers fulfill membership responsibilities on each Local Workforce Innovation Board (LWIB) by providing Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, High School Credit Recovery, English Language Acquisition, and Vocational activities and services outlined in the Unified State Plan as well as the goals and strategies in the *Expanding Career Pathway Opportunities in Adult Education Strategic Plan*. The ICCB continues to work with other partners around service integration in order to reduce duplication and to ensure effective collaboration around the expansion and scaling of comprehensive career pathways in each local area.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2020

**Figure 1 / Table 1: Students served in Adult Education and Literacy in FY21**

	Students	Units Of Instruction <sup>2</sup>
ABE	9,407	102,125.23
ASE	4,822	46,351.95
ELA	15,053	165,301.15
HSCR	1,661	30,531.57
VOC	587	4,487.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,530</b>	<b>348,797.72</b>

<sup>2</sup> One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment



### Workforce Preparation

The ICCB continues to lead and support the development of work-based educational programs for the most vulnerable Illinois residents. Using key labor and market trends, the adult education programs work diligently to expand Illinois' talent pipeline and provide adult learners with opportunities to expand their academic, English language, and workplace skills. The evolving workforce supports the need for the ICCB to develop and expand Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Bridge programs that accelerate and connect adult literacy instruction with technical or workforce training leading to industry-recognized/postsecondary credentials and meaningful employment. Bridge Programs prepare adults with limited academic or limited English skills to enter and succeed in credit-bearing postsecondary education and training leading to career-path employment in high-demand occupations. Integrated Education and Training (ICAPS Programs) provide students the opportunity to dual enroll in high school equivalency instruction and either credit or industry recognized training using an integrated model, supplemented by support courses, comprehensive student support services. Table 2 and 3 illustrate the continued growth of both Bridge and IET programs throughout the state.

**Table 2: Bridge Programs**

Career Pathway	No. Programs: FY20	No. Programs: FY21
Ag, Food and Natural Resources	1	2
Architecture and Construction	2	2
Business Management and Administration	8	8
Career/College	17	23
Education & Training	11	11
Health Science	42	36
Human Services	0	2
Hospitality & Tourism	5	9
Information Technology	15	24
Law, Public Safety, Corrections	1	2
Manufacturing	30	28
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	6	13
Integrated English Language and Civics	0	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>168</b>

**Table 3: Integrated Education and Training Programs**

Career Pathway	No. Programs FY20	No. Programs FY21
Architecture and Construction	7	5
Business Management and Administration	4	4
Education and Training	3	3
Health Science	34	39
Hospitality and Tourism	1	1
Human Services	2	0
Information Technology	11	12
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	1	1
Manufacturing	28	25
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	4	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>99</b>

**Provider Approval, Diversity, and Funding**

FY21 was an Adult Education and Family Literacy Grant Continuation Year. Programs received the initial award beginning in FY17. To be selected for funding, applicants were required to demonstrate past effectiveness in providing adult education instruction with the goal of transitioning adult learners to postsecondary education, training, and into employment. The initial applicants documented need of the eligible applicant to serve individuals in the community who are most in need of literacy services and career pathway services, including individuals who have low literacy skills (i.e., literacy statistics, regional and local needs, etc.).

Continuation of the grant was contingent on sufficient funding and submittal and approval of an official end-of-year report that includes demonstration of adequate and effective performance in the prior year.

Providers included

- 13 Local Education Agencies
- 18 Community-Based Organizations
- 37 Community Colleges
- 3 Faith-based Organizations
- 2 Four-Year Colleges or Universities
- 1 Illinois Department of Corrections System.

FY2021 Adult Education and Literacy Resources: Federal and State Funding		FY2021 Reimbursement Rates	
Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,726,346	Adult Basic Education	\$101.98
Federal IEL/Civics	\$ 2,673,480	Adult Secondary Education	\$ 91.78
State Basic Appropriation	\$22,650,999	Vocational Skills Training	\$127.48
State Performance	\$ 10,899,590	English as a Second Language	\$101.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 52,950,415</b>	High School Credit Recovery	\$ 91.78

**Early School Leaver Transition Program**

The Early School Leaver Transition Program (ESLTP) is designed for out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The program is specifically aimed at helping youth become reoriented and motivated to complete their education and engage in career and work training activities. The overarching goal of the ESLTP is to assist students in achieving high school completion or a High School Equivalency credential as the basis for entry into postsecondary education/training and meaningful employment. In FY21, there were 8 ESLTP sites across Illinois and the work-based learning portion of the ESLTP included training in all 16 Career Clusters. The sites include Black Hawk College, John A. Logan College, Joliet Junior

College, Lewis and Clark Community College, Malcolm X College- A City College of Chicago, Parkland College, Richland Community College, and Southwestern Illinois College.

The Work-Based Learning component offers students the opportunity to gain work experiences while fine-tuning their employability skills. Most experiences are connected to employers who will likely employ the student upon completion of the ESLTP program.

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### **Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE)**

WIOA authorized and codified the Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Program in 2016, with the first round of IELCE funding distributed in Illinois in 2017. In an IELCE Program, literacy, English language acquisition, and civics education must be delivered in combination with integrated education and training activities, accommodating services for professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries.

In FY21, the ICCB provided IELCE funded programs with additional supports through access to a web-based curriculum and technical assistance for implementing remote instruction and workforce training. In the Spring of FY21, the ICCB held its 2<sup>nd</sup> IELCE competition in accordance with WIOA regulations, increasing the number of IELCE-funded programs from 26 to 29, funding a combination of community colleges, regional offices of education, and community-based organizations from all areas of Illinois.

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### **FY2021 Strategic Initiatives**

The ICCB led all Title II initiatives, serving adult education students working toward their high school credentials, expanding Bridge and ICAPS programming, providing English Language Acquisition and Civics instruction, Integrated English Language and Civics Education, and provided basic education services for justice-involved individuals in the Illinois Department of Corrections, county jails, and transitional housing programs. FY21 focused on the following:

- *Future of work* – The implementation of ICAPS and Bridge programs address the changing nature of work, requiring industry-recognized credentials and technology proficiency.
- *Comprehensive career pathways and regional partnerships* – Adult education programs develop comprehensive regional plans annually to ensure alignment between services.
- *College and career readiness* – College and career readiness is a robust area where Illinois Adult Education has the opportunity to embed elements that can help individuals make better decisions about education, training, and job opportunities, all leading to stronger outcomes for students.

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### **Future Initiatives**

- The ICCB will:
  - consider developing two new professional pathways, data expert and program leadership, which will be designed to provide additional supports and technical assistance for programs with the intention of improving student outcomes.
  - establish supports, technical assistance, and policy that facilitate stronger transitions between Adult Education and postsecondary education and workforce training.
  - conduct ongoing evaluation and analysis of the professional development offered across the state.
  - continue to work with stakeholders to develop a statewide student recruitment strategy and model promising practices to increase the number of adult learners served through Title II programs.
  - continue to infuse equity in all offerings and develop a digital equity state plan for Adult Education.
  - examine state data and focus on equity of access of adult education and career pathway instruction that satisfies regional and local job market needs and identify external and internal supports that will eliminate or reduce barriers for student success.
  - focus on pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship trainings to provide innovative methods of educating adult learners and creating a talent pipeline.
  - review the *Expanding Career Pathways Opportunities in Adult Education: Strategic Directions for Illinois, Strategic Five-Year Plan's* to create the vision and foundation for the next 5 years.