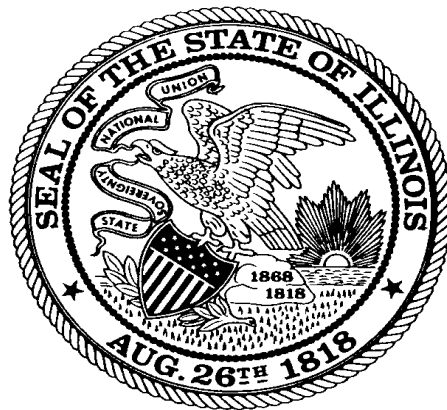


Illinois Community College Board

**FY 2007
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities
during the fiscal year July 1, 2006
through June 30, 2007*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2007 ADULT EDUCATION
AND FAMILY LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

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ICCB's Promise for Illinois Adult Education

Millions of Illinois residents lack the level of literacy skills needed to obtain good jobs, perform well on the job, and function well in an increasingly complex society. The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is committed to strengthening programs and services that are designed to enhance instructional offerings to the many students in need of adult education.

To address the scope and diversity of need for adult education and literacy skills, the ICCB will work with providers of adult education and other stakeholders to increase access to adult education through traditional classroom approaches, as well as through the use of technology. The ICCB is committed to developing partnerships that will enhance services, as well as assist students in making positive steps toward the successful completion of their education.

Purpose of Adult Education

The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is to create a partnership among the federal government, states, and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who have attained 16 years of age or above, who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law and to provide instructional and support services that are designed to:

- assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency;
- assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and
- assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education.

Critical Need for Adult Education in Illinois

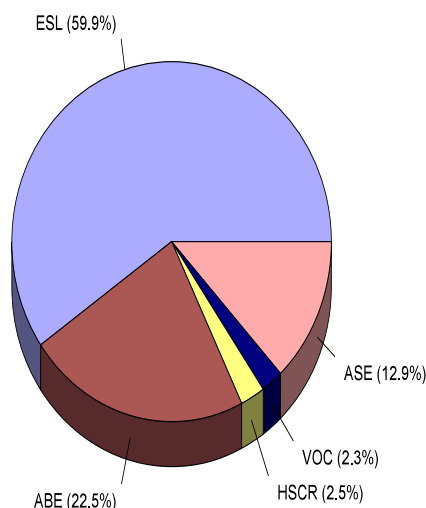
- More than 1.8 million of Illinois' 9.9 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education, including about 713,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. Adults with less than a 9th grade education has increased by 4.4 percent since 2003. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2007)
- Approximately 2.33 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English as the primary language in their home. English literacy skills for entry and advancement in the labor force are needed by many of these residents. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2007)
- Almost 660,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. Many of these individuals need English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education and the workforce and to obtain citizenship. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2007)

FY 2007 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education

<u>Instruction Type</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Units*</u>
English as-a-Second Language (ESL)	74,831	672,308
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	28,099	221,167
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)/GED	16,113	124,678
High School Credit (HSCR)	3,108	46,948
Vocational (VOC)	2,869	18,994
TOTAL	125,020	1,084,095

*One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment.

Students in Adult Education and Family Literacy



WORKFORCE PREPARATION

- ❑ Earning a General Education Development (GED) provides individuals opportunities to further employment, training, and post secondary education. 13,084 individuals earned GED awards in Illinois during fiscal year 2007.
- ❑ In FY 2007, 16,916 adult education students who completed instruction received earnings in the first quarter following their program exit and 82% of these individuals maintained earnings in the third quarter after exiting the program.
- ❑ 16,071 individuals receiving public assistance enrolled in Adult Education and Family Literacy programs and gained the education and workforce preparation skills necessary for their success.

ENGLISH AS-A-SECOND LANGUAGE AND EL/CIVICS

- ❑ English as-a-Second Language learners continue to constitute the majority (59.9 percent) of Adult Education instruction. Eighty-two Adult Education programs throughout Illinois provide ESL instruction.
- ❑ More than 9,478 EL/Civics funded students were served in 44 Adult Education programs throughout the state. These learners become more competent in English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education, the workforce, and to obtain citizenship.
- ❑ EL/Civics Competencies that address the topics of the Democratic Process, Housing, Community Resources, the U.S. School System, and Health Services have been developed by the ESL Task Force. All programs receiving these funds are participating in training to assist in the incorporation of these competencies into classroom instruction.
- ❑ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center network conducted 90 professional development activities attended by 1,848 ESL Citizenship, and EL/Civics instructors. The activities centered on a variety of professional development activities that addressed multi-level classes, curriculum development, authentic materials, and other topics appropriate for ESL and EL/Civics instruction.

ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

- ❑ Illinois Adult Education and Family Literacy exceeded its Workforce Investment Act performance targets at 109 percent of the goal in FY 2007. Attainment of these high standards determine Illinois' eligibility to receive additional federal incentive funds.
- ❑ More than 4,500 students in Illinois are enrolled in GED-i online, a nationally recognized world-class web-based GED curriculum developed to expand the availability of Adult Education programming in Illinois. GED-i is at: <http://www.ged-i.org>
- ❑ The ICCB AEFL Division participated as part of the USDOE–Office of Vocational and Adult Education STAR (Student Achievement in Reading) Project. The ICCB Adult Education team continues to work with provider sites to implement the Evidence-Based Reading Research in their adult education programs. Currently, 26 programs across Illinois have implemented STAR.
- ❑ ESL Content Standards have been developed, piloted, and disseminated to all programs and ABE Content Standard Development have been field tested and are being finalized. Programs will participate in training designed to assist them in the alignment of curriculum in accordance with the content standards requirements.
- ❑ The development and implementation of the Adult Education web-based data collection system, DAIS-I (Data and Information Systems-Illinois), further increases the accuracy of adult education data reported to the state and federal governments.

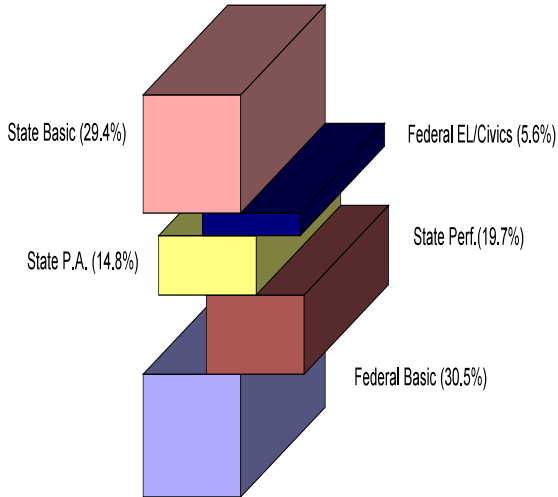
PROVIDER DIVERSITY

Adult Education and Family Literacy is committed to a diversity of providers delivering instruction to all areas of the state.

Community Colleges	39
Public Schools / Regional Offices of Education	29
Community-Based Organizations	30
Public University	1
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
TOTAL	100

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Funds by Source for Adult Education and Family Literacy



Federal and State Funding in Fiscal Year 2007

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$16,587,061
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 3,062,638
State Basic Appropriation	\$16,026,200
State Performance	\$10,701,600
State Public Assistance (PA)	<u>\$ 8,080,498</u>
Total	<u>\$54,457,997</u>

State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education	\$ 86.07
Adult Secondary Education	\$ 77.46
Vocational Skills Training	\$107.58

PROGRAM APPROVAL CRITERIA

Proposals for funding are reviewed by staff from the ICCB and/or partner state entities familiar with Adult Education and Family Literacy. The review criteria include:

- Program Planning
- Educational Gains
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Staffing and Staff Development
- Support Services
- Recruitment
- Student Retention

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

- The AEFL Advisory Council continues to provide recommendations on issue relative to adult education success. The 35 member council includes representatives from community-based organizations, community colleges, public schools, Regional Offices of Education, the Departments of Corrections and Human Services, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Secretary of State Literacy Office, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association, and other important stakeholders. The council's focus includes curriculum and instruction, student support and transition services, policy studies, research and accountability, and professional development training and marketing.
- The GED Testing Advisory Council, formerly known as the GED Transition Committee, has been established to address issues relative to GED Testing Administration. The committee representation includes chief examiners and examiners throughout the state. Other representation includes the Cook County GED Testing Program, Regional Office of Education Superintendents/Assistant Superintendents, and other stakeholders. The Committee will continue its work in the areas of Policy, Professional Development, and Marketing.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Continue to seek additional resources to meet the needs of Adult Education students in Illinois.
- Continue to seek additional funding for GED Testing Administration statewide.
- Upon Reauthorization of Title II of the Workforce Investment Act, develop a new Federal State Plan for Adult Education.
- Continue to provide Curriculum Development Training using the established content standards for Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, and English as-a-Second Language.
- Implement an evaluation process ensuring programs provide quality instruction to all Illinois students.
- Examine the current Adult Education funding formula.
- Develop new transition initiatives designed to help adult education students transition to post secondary education and employment.