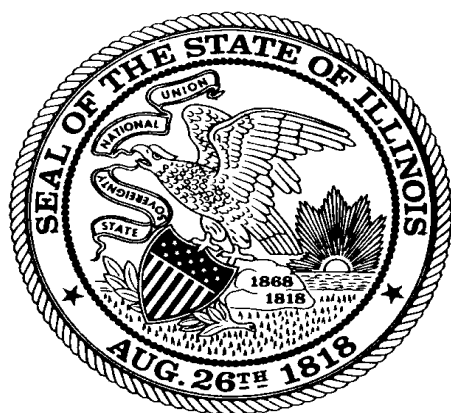


Illinois Community College Board

**FY 2009
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities
during the fiscal year July 1, 2008
through June 30, 2009*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2009 ADULT EDUCATION
AND FAMILY LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

Guy H. Alongi
Chair

Geoffrey S. Obrzut
President/CEO

Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson
*Vice President for Adult Education
and Institutional Support*

Jennifer K. Foster
*Senior Director for Adult
Education and Family Literacy/
State Director for GED Testing
Administration*

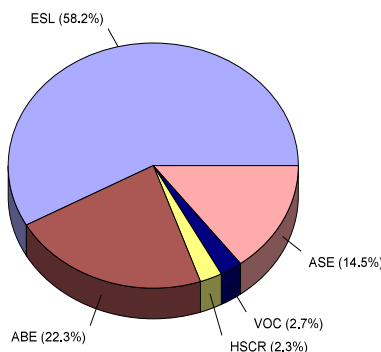
Illinois Community College Board
401 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1711
Voice 217-785-0123
TDD 217-782-5645
FAX 217-524-4981

Report also available as a PDF file
on the Web at www.iccb.org

Printed by the Authority of the State of
Illinois 2/25/10 100.

For the purpose of compliance with Section
511 of Public Law 101-166 (the Stevens
Amendment), approximately 100% federal
funds were used to produce this
publication.

Students in Adult Education and Family Literacy



ICCB's Promise for Illinois Adult Education

Illinois' economy is transforming to one that demands new knowledge, skills, and credentials. Given the skills needed to compete in today's society, the need for a pathway system that prepares learners to enter and succeed in post-secondary education and employment is important. Adult education services are needed now more than ever. There are millions of Illinois residents who have either not completed their high school education or lack the basic literacy skills and language skills needed to obtain jobs in Illinois. For these individuals, obtaining these skills prepares them to enter middle skill jobs and post-secondary education.

Through a diverse provider system and collaboration with stakeholders to increase access to adult education services, the Illinois Community College Board *envisions adult education as the foundation of a career pathway system that prepares adult learners for economic self-sufficiency.* The ICCB is committed to strengthening instructional programs and services that equip students with the skills needed to successfully compete in today's society.

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.

There is a Critical Need for Adult Education in Illinois

- ❑ More than 1.8 million of Illinois' 10 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are close to 731,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. The number of adults with less than a 9th grade education has increased by 7% since 2004. ⁽¹⁾
- ❑ Approximately 2.53 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English as the primary language in their homes. English literacy skills for entry and advancement in the labor force are needed by many of these residents. ⁽¹⁾
- ❑ Almost 639,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education, and employment. ⁽¹⁾

FY 2009 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education

Instruction Type	Students	Units ²
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	71,936	646,795
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	27,633	216,452
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)/GED	17,887	126,359
High School Credit (HSCR)	2,859	50,481
Vocational (VOC)	3,355	22,139
TOTAL	123,670	1,062,226

¹ U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2009

² One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment.

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

- ❑ Earning a General Education Development (GED) provides individuals with opportunities to further employment, training, and post-secondary education. 16,400 individuals earned GED awards in Illinois during fiscal year 2009.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2009, 10,797 adult education students who completed instruction received earnings in the first quarter following their program exit. Eighty-two percent of these individuals maintained earnings in the third quarter after exiting the program.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2009, 19,618 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 (58.2%) of Adult Education instruction. There are 82 Adult Education programs throughout Illinois that provide ESL instruction.
- ❑ 8,655 EL/Civics funded students were served in 42 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, US School System and Health Services have been used by all programs that receive EL/Civics funding. There were 8,639 students funded with EL Civics who earned at least one unit of instruction. As a group, these students completed a total of 129,032 competencies.
- ❑ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center Network conducted 188 professional development activities attended by 1,913 ESL, Citizenship and EL/Civics instructors. These events centered on a variety of professional development activities that addressed multi-level classes, curriculum development 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 101% of the goal in Fiscal Year 2009. Attainment of these high standards determine Illinois' eligibility to receive additional federal incentive funds.
- ❑ An Adult Education Task Force was formed to develop a new Strategic Plan for Adult Education. The plan was completed in FY2010 and includes six recommendations that build on past successes and advance instructional services by *“Creating a Pathway System for all Adult Learners.”* Recommendations address a wide range of strategies from curricula and instruction and support services to high quality teaching and professional development and accountability.
- ❑ Bridge Programs continue to meet the needs of learners as well as align with state and regional workforce economic development needs. Thirteen adult education programs developed bridge programs designed to provide contextualized instruction that combines basic literacy and specific occupational knowledge and skills, career development, and transition support services designed to assist adult learners to make successful transition to post-secondary education and employment.
- ❑ An enrollment study was conducted to examine the impact of managed, fixed, and open enrollment on student outcomes. This information was provided to adult education programs to aid in retention and student success.
- ❑ GEDi, a web-based program developed within our state, continues to expand nationally. This web-based GED curriculum is currently being used in seven states.

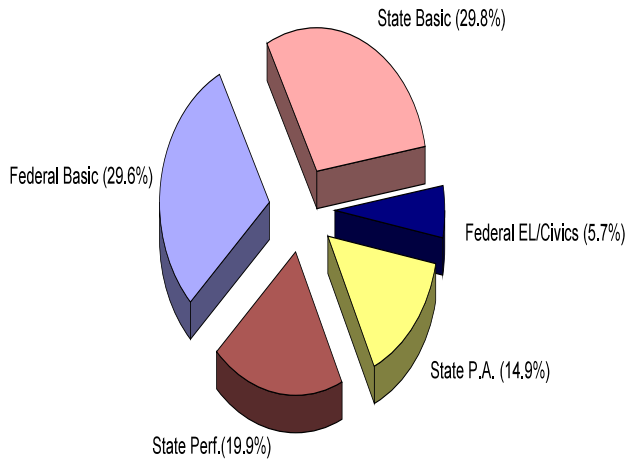
PROVIDER DIVERSITY

Adult Education and Family Literacy is committed to a diversity of providers. Provider types include the following:

Local Education Agencies	26
Faith-based organizations	4
Community-Based Organizations	26
Community, Junior or Technical Colleges	39
Four-year Colleges or Universities	1
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
TOTAL	97

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Funds by Source for Adult Education and Family Literacy



Federal and State Funding in Fiscal Year 2009

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 15,898,648
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 3,079,546
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,026,200
State Performance	\$ 10,701,600
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 7,985,764
TOTAL:	\$ 53,691,758

State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education = \$88.90

Adult Secondary Education = \$ 80.01

Vocational Skills Training = \$ 111.13

* ESL is the same as ABE and HSCR is the same as ASE.

PROGRAM APPROVAL

Proposals for funding are reviewed by staff from the ICCB and 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 provides a number of recommendations that help shape the direction of adult education. The council includes representatives from community based organizations, community colleges, public school/ 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, and other important stakeholders. Currently, 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 Latino Advisory Committee was formed to provide recommendations on how the Adult Education System and the Illinois Community College System can better serve the expanding Latino population.
- ❑ Adult Education continues to participate in the Illinois Shifting Gears Initiative, funded through the Joyce Foundation, to examine state policy relevant to advancing pathway and bridge program initiatives that move low-skilled adults into post-secondary education and employment.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Continue to seek additional resources to meet the needs of Adult Education students in Illinois and seek additional funding for GED Testing Administration statewide.
- ❑ Review the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) list of federally approved assessments to determine the feasibility for adult education students.
- ❑ Conduct a study of the EL Civics competencies and provide additional guidance and training to local programs.
- ❑ Develop action steps in implementing the Strategic Plan for Adult Education for implementation beginning FY2011.
- ❑ Develop new initiatives designed to help adult education students transition to post-secondary education and employment. These will include training, action research, and other bridge and transition initiatives.
- ❑ Continue to participate in initiatives that connect adult education to state and federal research including, the states P-20 initiative, Longitudinal Data System, National Common Core Standards, the American Graduation Initiative, and other initiatives.