

Illinois Community College Board

**FY 2010
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities
during the fiscal year July 1, 2009
through June 30, 2010*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2010 ADULT EDUCATION
AND FAMILY LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

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ICCB’s Promise for Illinois Adult Education

Millions of Illinois residents have either not completed high school education or lack the basic literacy and language skills needed to obtain jobs in Illinois. Illinois’ economy is transforming to one that recognizes the need to expose adult education learners to a full range of instructional activities and strategies designed to help them reach their fullest potential. To prepare adult learners to compete in today’s society, there is a need for a pathway system approach that is flexible to the needs of students, provides the necessary supports, and prepares learners to enter and succeed in post-secondary education and employment.

The ICCB, through a diverse provider system, *envisions adult education as the foundation of a career pathway system that prepares adult learners for economic self-sufficiency.* The Strategic Plan for Adult Education outlines a clear approach that will strengthen instructional programs and services to better equip students with skills to successfully compete in today’s society.

Purpose of Adult Education

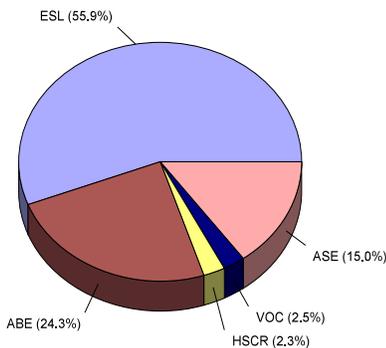
The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is to create a partnership among the Federal government, states, and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who have attained 16 years of age 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 725,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. The number of adults with less than a 9th grade education has increased by 26% since 2001. ⁽¹⁾
- ❑ Approximately 2.64 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 607,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education, and employment. ⁽¹⁾

Students in Adult Education and Family Literacy



FY 2010 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education

<u>Instruction Type</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Units ²</u>
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	68,676	641,773
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	29,847	241,471
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	18,423	135,726
High School Credit (HSCR)	2,816	49,416
Vocational (VOC)	3,054	20,730
TOTAL	122,816	1,089,116

¹ U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2010

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. 16,214 individuals earned GED[®] awards in Illinois during fiscal year 2010.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2010, 8,865 adult education students who completed instruction received earnings in the first quarter following their program exit. Seventy-nine percent of these individuals maintained earnings in the third quarter after exiting the program.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2010, 20,573 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 (55.9%) of Adult Education instruction. There are 78 Adult Education providers throughout Illinois with ESL instruction.
- ❑ 6,751 EL/Civics funded students were served in 43 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 6,737 students funded with EL Civics who earned at least one unit of instruction. As a group, these students completed a total of 143,763 competencies.
- ❑ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center Network conducted 87 professional development activities attended by 1,256 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 103% of the goal in Fiscal Year 2010. Attainment of these high standards determine Illinois' eligibility to receive additional federal incentive funds.
- ❑ The new five-year Strategic Plan "*Creating a Pathway System for all Adult Learners*" has been identified as a blueprint for adult education success and recognized by other states and at the national level. Recommendations from this plan address a wide range of issues 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. To date, twenty-one 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.
- ❑ In FY10 an interactive index of the Transition Literature Review was distributed to all Adult Education programs. The intent of this interactive CD is to provide programs with current pathway and transition research and activities relevant to education and employment.
- ❑ GEDi, a web-based program developed within Illinois, continues to expand nationally. This web-based GED[®] curriculum is currently being used in Illinois and seven other states. (www.gedillinois.org)

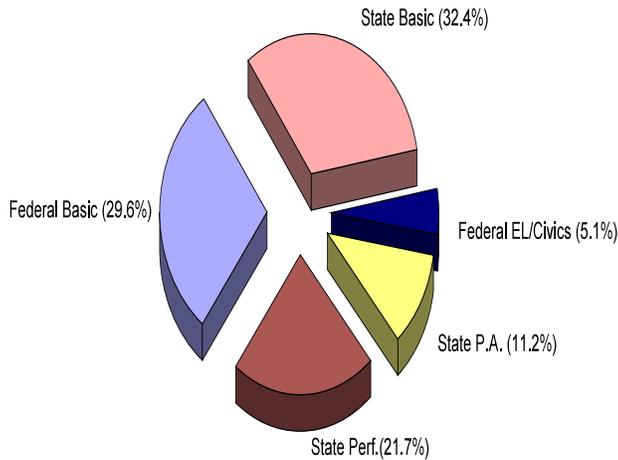
PROVIDER DIVERSITY

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

Local Education Agencies	26
Faith-based organizations	3
Community-Based Organizations	26
Community, Junior or Technical Colleges	39
Four-year Colleges or Universities	1
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
TOTAL	96

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Funds by Source for Adult Education and Family Literacy



Federal and State Funding in Fiscal Year 2010

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 14,643,097
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 2,501,978
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,026,200
State Performance	\$ 10,701,599
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 5,546,200
TOTAL:	\$ 49,419,074

State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education = \$ 99.32

Adult Secondary Education = \$ 89.39

Vocational Skills Training = \$ 124.15

* 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 addresses the recommendations outlined in the five-year Strategic Plan which includes assessment, curriculum and instruction, and data and accountability.
- ❑ The Latino Advisory Committee was formed to address the needs of Latino students transition to and success in post-secondary education. The committee provided recommendations in the following areas: Dual Enrollment/Credit, Institutional Improvement Plans, and Improved Access and Success.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Adult Education continues to participate in the Illinois Shifting Gears Initiative, funded through the Joyce Foundation. We will continue to expand bridge program offerings and other transitional pathway approaches statewide that will better prepare learners to enter and succeed in post secondary education and employment.
- ❑ Continue to seek additional resources for Adult Education and GED® Testing Administration in order to meet the needs of students and test-takers statewide.
- ❑ Continue participation 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.
- ❑ Explore other appropriate assessments for use with AEFL students including conducting a pilot for an additional ESL assessment (CASAS - Life and Work Series) for use with measuring ESL student progress.
- ❑ Implement action plans to address recommendations from the five-year Strategic Plan for Adult Education with input from the adult education field.
- ❑ Continue to expand the use of data for decision by providing additional professional development activities including one on one technical assistance and regional data summits.