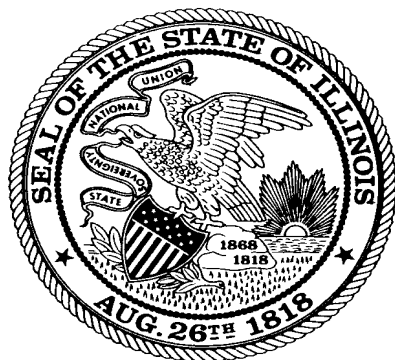


Illinois Community College Board

**FY 2011
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities
during the fiscal year July 1, 2010
through June 30, 2011*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2011
ADULT EDUCATION AND
FAMILY LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

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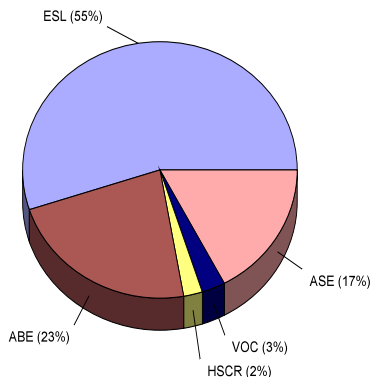
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Students in Adult Education and Family Literacy



ICCB’s Promise for Illinois Adult Education

Adult Learners in Illinois need the skills necessary to make successful transitions to post-secondary occupational programs and to pathway employment. With the high need in many industry/sector areas, it is essential that adult learners obtain the skills necessary for them to access middle skilled jobs of the present and the future. To prepare adult learners to compete, it is necessary to build a career pathway system that is focused on education, training, and workforce needs. Adult Learners need access to a full range of instructional and support services, including bridge programs that offer contextualized instruction. By blending both occupational specific terminology and basic skills together, learners are provided with enhanced instruction within a career cluster leading to pathway success in 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.” To achieve this vision, a variety of partnerships must be developed to effectively ensure learner success in education and employment. The Strategic Plan for Adult Education outlines an approach that will strengthen, expand, and transform the current process into a system that prepares adult learners to compete in 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’ 10.1 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are close to 709,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. The number of adults with less than a 9th grade education has increased by 23% since 2001. ⁽¹⁾
- Approximately 2.61 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⁾
- More than 552,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education, and employment. ⁽¹⁾

FY 2011 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education

Instruction Type	Students	Units ²
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	59,075	578,379
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	24,631	210,925
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	18,032	137,893
High School Credit (HSCR)	2,480	45,194
Vocational (VOC)	2,721	17,740
TOTAL	106,939	990,131

¹ U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2011

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. 16,203 individuals earned GED[®] awards in Illinois during fiscal year 2011.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2011, 81% of Adult Education students were still employed nine months after completing instruction and entering the workforce.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2011, 20,084 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%) of Adult Education instruction. In FY11, there were 77 Adult Education providers throughout Illinois providing ESL instruction.
- ❑ 6,352 EL/Civics funded students were served in 39 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 receiving EL/Civics funding. There were 6,313 students funded with EL Civics who earned at least 15 enrollment hours. As a group, these students completed a total of 150,367 competencies.
- ❑ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center Network conducted 56 professional development activities attended by 1,084 ESL, Citizenship and EL/Civics instructors. These events addressed multi-level classes, curriculum development and other topics appropriate for ESL and EL/Civics instruction.
- ❑ A new assessment was introduced for use with ESL students. CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) can now be used to assess the reading skills of English Language Learners.

ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

- ❑ The Illinois Community College Board was selected to be a part of the Accelerating Opportunity project. This project is administered through Jobs for the Future and is funded through foundations that include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Joyce Foundation. This initiative began in February 2011 when the Illinois Community College Board became one of eleven states chosen to participate as part of a design grant to develop an integrated model of instruction. This model combines both basic skills and occupational skills together to accelerate the process of adult education students accessing post-secondary education, training and employment. In recent months, the ICCB was again chosen as one of four states to receive a \$1.6 million implementation grant, over a period of three years, to implement the model created during the initial design phase. Eight colleges in Illinois, all with Adult Education programs, have been selected to participate.
- ❑ The expansion of Bridge Programs in Adult Education has proven successful. Currently, more than 16 programs have developed and/or offered bridge programs that meet the needs of low-skilled adults. Efforts are underway to ensure every learner has the opportunity to participate in a Bridge Program. In order to meet the needs of the workforce, the adult education system has provided training to local program directors and instructional staff in the development of bridge programming.
- ❑ The Strategic Plan for Adult Education, "Creating Pathways for Adult Learners," is being implemented successfully with a focus on the plan's six recommendations. These recommendations include a review of assessments that may be available for use in the state, including those for basic skills or work related; assisting programs with the use of data for decision making as well as return on investment models for adult education; and the use of evidence based reading instruction to ensure students develop the reading skills necessary to make successful transitions to the next level of education.
- ❑ Illinois ABE/ASE Content Standards were released in April 2011. This information provides, at a minimum, the standards needed to ensure students have basic literacy skills. The ESL Content Standards were developed in Sept. 2007. Both sets of content standards are available on the ICCB website at www.iccb.org/ae.fl.pub.reports.html
- ❑ The GEDi, an Illinois developed online curriculum project, was renamed iPathways to reflect the new direction the program is taking with an emphasis on career pathways and transition programs. Currently this project has partnerships with entities in nine other states. (www.i-pathways.org)

PROVIDER DIVERSITY

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

Local Education Agencies	23
Faith-Based Organizations	3
Community-Based Organizations	25
Community, Junior or Technical Colleges	39
Four-year Colleges or Universities	1
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
TOTAL	92

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Federal and State Funding in Fiscal Year 2011

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 15,388,781
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 2,670,681
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,026,200
State Performance	\$ 10,701,600
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 5,546,200
TOTAL	\$ 50,333,462

State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education = \$ 101.98

Adult Secondary Education = \$ 91.78

Vocational Skills Training = \$ 127.48

* 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 provided recommendations to help meet the objectives set forth in Adult Education's Strategic Plan. The council includes representatives from current Adult Education providers and representatives from state agencies.
- ❑ The Latino Advisory Committee continues to provide recommendations to address the educational needs of the Latino community. The committee focused on transitions of students to post-secondary and the connection of students to services within the community college and the greater community.
- ❑ The Accelerating Opportunity Design Team, which is made up of adult education providers, community college presidents, faculty and staff, state agency staff, research, business roundtable and workforce advocacy groups, worked together to develop an integrated model of instruction that blends Basic Skills and Career and Technical Education (CTE) to accelerate adult learner transitions to CTE Programs of Study.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Continue the implementation of the Accelerating Opportunity Initiative by seeking additional funding to support the efforts of the eight colleges to implement the integrated instructional models as well as to support scalability of the project to other colleges and adult education providers.
- ❑ Develop a plan to transition GED Testing to a computer-based testing delivery model in 2014. Also, due to a proposed significant increase in costs by GED Testing Services, work with other states and local testing centers to explore alternative tests that can be used to lessen the financial burden to the test-taker.
- ❑ Align Illinois Adult Education Content Standards with Common Core and College Readiness Standards, Career Pathway Knowledge and Skill, Evidence Based Reading Strategies and Technology.
- ❑ Develop a statewide plan for Evidence Based Reading Instruction to ensure adult learners are reading at appropriate educational levels and a statewide plan for Career Pathways frameworks that transition students to post-secondary education and employment.
- ❑ Develop a competitive Adult Education Request for Proposal for release in FY12.
- ❑ Continue the implementation of the five year Strategic Plan for Adult Education.