

Illinois Community College Board

**FY 2012
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities
during the fiscal year July 1, 2011
through June 30, 2012*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2012
ADULT EDUCATION AND
FAMILY LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

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ICCB's Promise for Illinois Adult Education

Adult Learners in Illinois are gaining skills necessary to make successful transitions to postsecondary occupational programs and to pathway employment. With the expansion of bridge and integrated instruction, the ICCB continues to focus efforts that are essential to adult learners obtaining the skills necessary for them to access middle skilled jobs of the present and the future. Partnering with workforce, career and technical education, and businesses is necessary to build a career pathway system that is focused on education, training and workforce needs. Adult Learners need access to programs and services designed to help them enter and maintain employment.

The ICCB continues to strengthen, expand, and transform the adult education system using the Strategic Plan for Adult Education as the guiding force. Through a diverse provider system, the ICCB will continue to achieve the vision for adult education and will ensure learner success in education and employment.

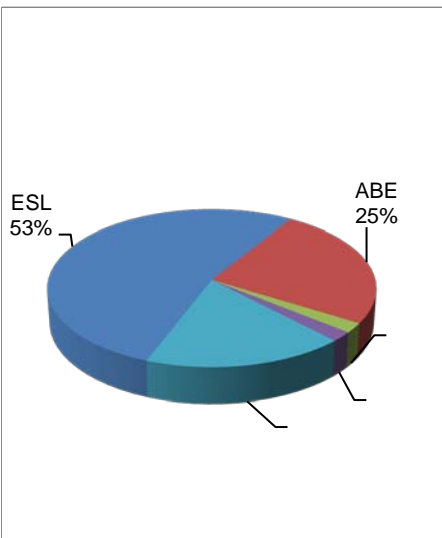
Purpose of Adult Education

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

- ☐ Almost 1.4 million of Illinois' 10.1 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are close to 531,000 people with less than a 9th grade education.⁽¹⁾
- ☐ Approximately 2.59 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 422,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education and employment.⁽¹⁾



FY 2012 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education

<u>Instruction Type</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Units</u> ²
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	54,196	548,558
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	24,919	219,862
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	17,898	144,603
High School Credit (HSCR)	2,343	46,811
Vocational (VOC)	<u>2,124</u>	<u>14,063</u>
TOTAL	101,480	973,896

¹ U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2012

² One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

- ❑ Earning a General Educational Development (GED[®]) provides individuals with opportunities to further employment, training, and postsecondary education. 15,613 individuals earned GED[®] awards in Illinois during fiscal year 2012.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2012, 81% of Adult Education students were still employed nine months after completing instruction and entering the workforce.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2012, 17,968 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 constitute the majority (53%) of Adult Education instruction. In FY12, there were 68 Adult Education providers throughout Illinois providing ESL instruction.
- ❑ 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. Of the 5,888 EL/Civics funded students completing at least 15 attendance hours, 4,982 (85%) met the competency requirement by completing at least two EL/Civics competencies for each fifteen attendance hours earned. As a group, these students completed a total of 162,006 competencies. These learners become more competent in English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education, the workforce and to obtain citizenship. In FY12, 37 Adult Education programs received EL/Civics funding.
- ❑ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center Network conducted 59 professional development activities attended by 682 ESL, Citizenship and EL/Civics instructors. These events addressed multi-level classes, curriculum development and other topics appropriate for ESL and EL/Civics instruction.
- ❑ The CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) was approved for use for assessing English Language Learners. The use of the assessment will be allowed for all ESL levels in FY 2013.

ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

- ❑ The Illinois Community College Board's Adult Education and Family Literacy program was chosen to receive a \$1.6 million implementation grant for Accelerating Opportunity. Along with three other states, this project implements a model that combines both basic skills and occupational skills together to accelerate the process of adult education students accessing postsecondary education, training and employment. The 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. Eight community colleges in Illinois, all with Adult Education programs, have been selected to participate.
- ❑ An additional six programs offered approved bridge programming during FY12. There are now 21 programs offering bridge instruction. In order to meet the needs of the workforce, the adult education system has provided Bridge 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. This plan lays out the direction and scope of adult education at this time.
- ❑ The alignment of ABE/ASE Content Standards with the Common Core and Career Readiness Standards was a priority in FY12. Project team leaders were selected and content area specialists from across the state presented a draft of the new standards to ICCB and final standards were in place by June 2012. Workshops helping teachers understand and incorporate the new standards will be a focus of professional development during the first half of FY 2013.
- ❑ Adult Education expanded the use of Evidence Based Reading Instruction (EBRI) through intensive professional development to programs and instructors. This model is specifically designed to increase reading comprehension and fluency of intermediate level students.
- ❑ i-Pathways, an Illinois developed online curriculum project, continues to provide adult learner access to instruction in a distance education format or as a hybrid to support traditional classroom instruction. Currently i-Pathways (<http://www.i-pathways.org>) has partnerships with entities in thirteen other states.

PROVIDER DIVERSITY

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

Local Education Agencies	22
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	91

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Federal and State Funding in Fiscal Year 2012

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 15,587,282
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 2,557,700
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,026,200
State Performance	\$ 10,701,600
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 5,546,200
TOTAL	\$ 50,418,982

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 AND SELECTION

During FY12, the ICCB announced the release of the Adult Education Competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) for FY13. A total of 110 applicants submitted RFP's and 90 were selected for funding for FY13.

Each RFP was reviewed by a panel of readers and scores combined to identify strong applicants. As a part of the process, applicants were asked to address topics related to adult education and student services. Topics included the following:

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

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 focus on the needs of Latino students. The purpose is to bring together key stakeholders to address the educational needs of the Latino student. The committee continues to examine barriers students face in transitioning to community college.
- ❑ The Accelerating Opportunity Project, a Gates and Joyce Foundation sponsored initiative, brings together key representatives to develop instruction that blends basic skills and career and technical education around high demand occupational areas to accelerate adult learner movement into further education and employment. Key areas of focus include: stackable credentials, employer engagement and strategic financing.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ❑ The ICCB will continue to expand and scale the Accelerating Opportunity Project to include more community colleges in the state. The project will also distribute best practices of the initial eight colleges' projects.
- ❑ Continue efforts to transition to the computer-based GED® Testing delivery model in 2014. Due to a proposed significant increase in costs by GED® Testing Services, continue to work with key stakeholders to examine ways to lessen the financial burden to the test-taker. The cost of the computer based testing is \$120. The cost of paper based testing will remain \$50 through the end of December 2013.
- ❑ The ICCB will continue to expand Evidence Based Reading Instruction, Transitions and Standards Alignment to more adult education programs.
- ❑ The ICCB will continue to align the Adult Education Standards to the Common Core and College Readiness Standards, Technology, Evidence Reading Strategies, and Career Cluster Essential Knowledge and Skills. Curriculum Institutes will be held throughout the state to assist programs in the development and alignment of curricula.