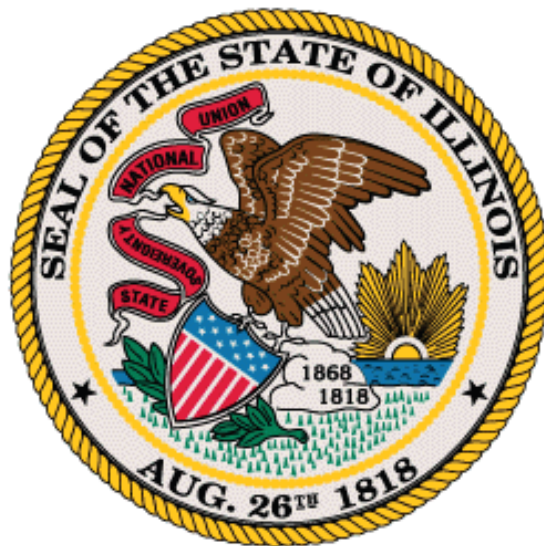


Illinois Community College Board

FY 2013 ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY



REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A summary of programs and activities during the fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

**ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
BOARD**

FY 2013

**ADULT
EDUCATION AND
FAMILY
LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

Alexi Giannoulis
Chair

Dr. Karen Hunter-Anderson
Executive Director

Jennifer K. Foster
*Associate Vice
President for Adult
Education and
Workforce
Development*

Illinois Community
College Board
401 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, Illinois
62701-1711

Voice 217-785-0123
TDD 217-782-5645
FAX 217-524-4981

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ICCB'S PROMISE FOR ILLINOIS ADULT EDUCATION

The ICCB continues to build and expand opportunities for adult education students to transition into college and to the workforce. Beyond preparation for the high school equivalency exam or improving English language skills, adult education in Illinois is dedicated to building on the pathways created to assist students to obtain or improve their employment options and successfully enroll and complete postsecondary education. Expanded bridge and transition programming, integrated models of instructional delivery, alignment of standards with the common core and college readiness standards, technology, career development and awareness skills, evidence based models, and the use of data for decision making, can only help make the promise a reality for many low skilled adults.

Through a diverse provider network, we will continue to work collaboratively toward fulfilling the goals of the strategic plan for the adult education system. This includes a focus on services that equip adult students to gain the skills necessary to complete and thrive in Illinois.

Purpose of Adult Education

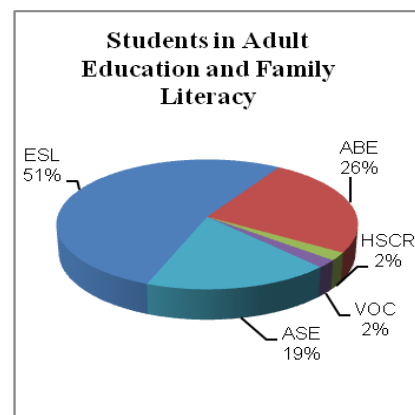
The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is to create a partnership among the Federal government, states and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who have attained 16 years of age or 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 1.3 million of Illinois' 10.2 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are close to 508,000 people with less than a 9th grade education.⁽¹⁾
- ⇒ Approximately 2.73 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 386,300 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education and employment.⁽¹⁾

FY 2013 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education		
Instruction Type	Students	Units ²
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	49,686	526,901
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	24,562	227,405
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	18,233	152,196
High School Credit (HSCR)	1,894	37,891
Vocational (VOC)	1,755	11,760
TOTAL	96,130	956,154



¹ U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2013

² One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

The preparation of students for success in the workforce is a major goal of the adult education system. Assisting low-skilled adults in attaining skills that are necessary for this success is important.

One of the ways in which the program helps students to be successful is the receipt of a General Educational Development (GED[®]) credential. The

GED[®] provides individuals with opportunities to further employment, training, and postsecondary education. A significant effort was made to ensure students who had started the 2002 GED[®] test completed the test before the launch of the new 2014 GED[®] test. The number of individuals earning a GED[®] in FY13 reached 16,280.

In Fiscal Year 2013, 69% of Adult Education students were still employed nine months after completing instruction and entering the workforce.

In Fiscal Year 2013, 15,008 individuals receiving public assistance enrolled in the program and gained the education and workforce preparation skills necessary for their success.

ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

⇒ In FY 2011, the Illinois Community College Board's Adult Education and Family Literacy program was selected for a \$1.6 million implementation grant for Accelerating Opportunity. Along with three other states, this project implemented a model that blends both basic skills and occupational skills together to accelerate the process of adult education students accessing postsecondary education, training and employment. Eight community college adult education programs in Illinois implemented the program in FY12. Four additional colleges were added in FY13 and another six are planned for FY14. 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.

⇒ At the end of FY13, there were 32 programs offering bridge instruction. Bridge programming addresses the need to help students understand and prepare for occupations that labor market data indicates are available employment options within their geographic area. Bridge instructional programs have three core components: contextualization; career awareness and development; and transitions services.

⇒ Illinois has been chosen by the US Department of Education – Office of Vocational and Adult Education to participate in a “*Promising Teacher Effectiveness in Adult Education Programs*” which focuses on teacher effectiveness, teacher competency and teacher induction. The results of the pilot are expected to lead to the development of tools and resources to assist states and local programs improve their efforts to recruit, retain, support and develop highly effective teachers in adult education.

⇒ i-Pathways, an Illinois developed online curriculum project, has a newly updated high school equivalency test preparation curriculum, along with a newly designed and mobile ready course management system. There are plans to contextualize this curriculum using manufacturing specific terminology. More information about this project can be found at: <http://www.i-pathways.org/>

⇒ Adult Education continues to increase the use of Evidence Based Reading Instruction (EBRI) through intensive professional development to programs and instructors. Currently 49 programs have implemented EBRI instruction into the instructional services offered. This method of instruction requires intensive training and is specifically designed to help improve reading comprehension and fluency for intermediate level students.

ENGLISH-AS-A-SECOND LANGUAGE AND EL/ CIVICS

⇒ English-as-a-Second Language learners constitute the majority (51%) of Adult Education instruction. In FY13, there were 68 Adult Education providers throughout Illinois providing ESL instruction.

⇒ EL/Civics Competencies address the topics of the Democratic Process, Housing, Community Resources, US School System and Health Services and are used by all programs receiving EL/Civics funding. Of the 5,418 EL/Civics funded students completing at least 15 attendance hours, 4,746 (88%) 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 137,115 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 FY13, 40 Adult Education programs received EL/Civics funding.

⇒ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center Network conducted 69 professional development activities tailored to ESL and EL/Civics issues. Sessions addressed such ESL and EL/Civics instruction including multi-level classes and curriculum development.

PROVIDER DIVERSITY

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

Local Education Agencies	
Faith-Based Organizations	
Community-Based Organizations	
Community, Junior or Technical Colleges	
Four-year Colleges or Universities	
Illinois Department of Corrections	

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Federal and State Funding in FY 2013

Federal Basic Appropriation	
Federal EL/Civics	
State Basic Appropriation	
State Performance	
State Public Assistance (PA)	
TOTAL	

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 matches ASE.

PROGRAM APPROVAL AND SELECTION

After a competitive grant year to award funding for FY13, Adult Education and Family Literacy programs were asked to submit continuation proposals to provide services during FY14.

As a part of the continuation proposal, applicants were asked to address topics related to adult education and student services. Topics included the following:

- Program Planning • Educational Gains • Community Partnerships • Curriculum and Instruction • Staffing and Staff Development • Support Services • Student Recruitment and 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 groups activities are focused on Curriculum and Transitions; and Research, Data and Accountability.

⇒ The ICCB Latino Advisory Committee continues to focus on barriers for Latino students. This diverse group of stakeholders examine current activities at the state and national level and determines the impact on Latino students in adult education programs and community colleges statewide.

⇒ The ICCB in partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services continues to work together to provide services to clients who are in need of adult education services.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

⇒ The ICCB continues to expand participation in integrated models of service to create pathways to postsecondary education and employment. One example of this expansion is a model bridge curriculum in the area of Transportation, Distribution and Logistics under development. The curriculum will be finalized and available for use by programs at the end of FY14. This is the third model bridge curriculum centered on the career clusters developed for adult education programs.

⇒ Computer based GED® was fully implemented in January 2014. Due to a significant increase in costs by GED® Testing Services, the ICCB is seeking funding strategies to help keep the costs affordable for students.

⇒ The Career and Academic Readiness System (CARS) is an online teaching and learning system which provides an interactive and engaging curriculum

for students to use to prepare for academic studies in higher education. The system, used in many community college and adult education programs, will be contextualized for manufacturing in the next year.

⇒ During FY14 the ICCB will develop curriculum around ABE/ASE Education Content Standards to assist programs in the integration of Common Core and College Readiness Standards, Technology and Career Cluster Essential Knowledge and Skills. Curriculum Institutes will be held to help programs integrate the new curriculum.

⇒ The ICCB will explore funding options to expand the number of adult education programs participating in integrated pathway projects like Accelerating Opportunity. Ongoing exploration of braided funding options to help finance career and technical education tuition costs for adult education students will be a focus in the next year.