



**FY2017**  
**ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities during the fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017*

**ILLINOIS  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
BOARD**

**FY2017**

**ADULT  
EDUCATION AND  
LITERACY  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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**ICCB’S PROMISE FOR ILLINOIS ADULT EDUCATION**

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) commits to maintaining statewide partnerships to integrate education, workforce, and economic development resources to create learning opportunities for businesses, individuals, and communities to prosper and contribute to growing the state’s economy. Utilizing state partnerships and a diverse provider network, the Adult Education and Literacy program will continue its mission to ensure adults have access to high quality literacy instruction, workforce preparation, and occupational training to enter in career pathways, obtain a sustainable wage, and meet the regional and local labor market need in Illinois.

**Purpose of Adult Education**

The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Literacy Act (AELA), Title II of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, is to create a partnership among the Federal government, states and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who are at least 16 years of age, who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law, who are basic skills deficient, who do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, who have not achieved an equivalent level of education, or who are English language learners. Services to this population are designed to:

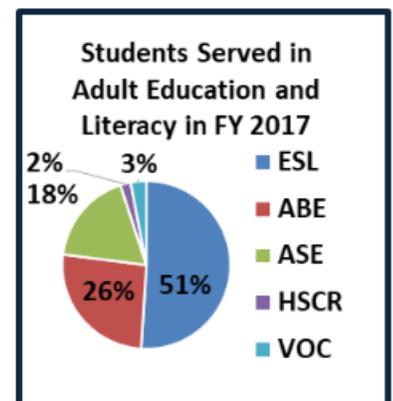
- assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency;
- assist adults who are parents or family members to obtain education and skills that are necessary to becoming full partners in the educational development of their children, and lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their family;
- assist adults in attaining a secondary school diploma and in transitioning to postsecondary education and training through career pathways;
- assist immigrants and other individuals who are English language learners in improving their reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills in English; mathematics skills; and acquiring an understanding of the American system of government, individual freedom, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

**Adult Education Fills a Critical Need in Illinois**

- Nearly 1.3 million of Illinois’ 12.8 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are 446,435 adults with less than a 9th grade education. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Approximately 2.8 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. <sup>(1)</sup>
- More than 332,275 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education, and employment. <sup>(1)</sup>

**FY 2017 Students Served and Units Provided  
in Adult Education**

Instruction Type	Students	Units <sup>2</sup>
English as a Second Language (ESL)	39,857	395,371
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	19,697	169,302
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	13,742	100,190
High School Credit (HSCR)	1,841	36,912
Vocational (VOC)	2,362	10,767
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77,499</b>	<b>712,542</b>



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2017  
<sup>2</sup> One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment

**Federal Performance:** Between Program Year 2013 and 2017, Illinois has raised its overall performance in education gains by 10% (from 33% to 43%) .

## WORKFORCE PREPARATION

The Illinois adult education system remains committed to assisting low-skilled adults with enhancing academic and employability skills to transition into high demand workforce occupations. Adult education provides contextualized curriculum and instruction that focuses on producing college and career ready individuals and connecting them to postsecondary education, training, and employment.

As a result, Illinois is providing multiple options for low-skilled adults to obtain an Illinois High School Equivalency certificate. Upon completion of adult education instruction, participants possess the skills necessary to transition to postsecondary education, and employment.

In 2017, approximately 14,500 individuals were assessed using one of three state approved high school equivalency tests. Of the number who tested, over 75% completed and earned a high school equivalency certificate. All three tests are aligned with the college and career readiness standards.

### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title II - Adult Education Activities

- The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Adult Education and Literacy continues to collaborate with state partners to provide business driven talent solutions that integrate education, workforce, and economic development resources across systems to provide business, individuals, and communities with the opportunity to prosper and contribute to growing the state's economy. To accomplish this mission, the ICCB continues to participate as a member of the State's Interagency Workgroup consisting of partners including the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Commerce), the Illinois Department of Employment Security (Employment Security), and the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Vocational Rehabilitation), as well as required one-stop partners under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Unified State Plan.
- Training and technical assistance was provided to Adult Education Programs to enhance services to prepare students to transition into college and a career opportunities. Curriculum and instruction were improved by placing intense focus on local labor market needs by contextualizing math, reading, and writing curriculum to prepare student to enter in sector specific career pathways and obtain employment that yields a sustainable wage.
- Through WIOA partnerships, Adult Education continues to maintain and grow Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs that meet local sector job market and student needs through the ICCB Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System (ICAPS). To further meet the needs of students and business industry partners, the ICCB has expanded ICAPS to include both credit (ICAPS Model 1) and non-credit (ICAPS Model 2) IET programs that lead to the obtainment of industry recognized credentials and sustainable employment.
- In FY17 a total of 4,135 students successfully completed IET programs and earned industry recognized credentials and employment in Health Science, Manufacturing, Architecture and Construction, and Business Management and Administration.

### English as a Second Language (ESL) and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IEL/CE)

- English as a Second Language learners constitute half (51%) of all Adult Education instruction. In FY17, there were 66 Adult Education providers throughout Illinois providing ESL instruction.
- Curriculum and Instruction for English Language Learners (ELL) was updated to align with the Office of Career Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) English Language Proficiency (ELP) adult education standards. The ELP standards ensure that all adult ELL's can obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency through integrated workplace preparation activities, mathematics, and digital literacy.
- FY 17 Civic Education competencies address topics including the democratic process, housing, community resources, and the U.S. school system and health services. In FY17, 37 programs provided Civic Education courses throughout the state of Illinois. Of the total of 4,954 Civics students in FY17 completing at least 15 attendance hours, 90% met the competency requirement of completing at least two Civic competencies for every 15 attendance hours earned. Students earned 121,599 competencies and acquired the necessary knowledge to participate more fully in their education, the workforce, and in obtaining citizenship.
- Twenty-five programs were awarded an IEL/CE grant which includes instruction in civic education, ESL, and integrated education and training.

## PROVIDER DIVERSITY

Services were offered through a variety of provider types in FY17. These types included the following:

Local Education Agencies	16
Faith-Based Organizations	3
Community-Based Organizations	22
Community, Junior, or Technical Colleges	38
Four-year Colleges or Universities	1
Illinois Department of Corrections	1

## ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY RESOURCES

### Federal and State Funding in FY2017

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 17,961,291
Federal IEL/Civics	\$ 2,651,831
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 21,572,400
State Performance	\$ 10,701,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 52,887,122</b>

### State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education/ESL = \$ 101.98  
 Adult Secondary Education/HSCR = \$ 91.78  
 Vocational Skills Training = \$ 127.48

## PROGRAM APPROVAL AND SELECTION

FY16 Adult Education providers were invited to apply for continuation of funding for FY17. Applicants were asked to demonstrate past effectiveness in providing integrated education and workforce activities; student recruitment and retention; and student transitions into postsecondary education, training, and employment. Applicants were also required to describe their participation on local workforce boards and partnerships to develop regional and local plans to meet the local needs of students and employers.

Proposals for funding were reviewed, and applicants were selected for continued funding based upon the demonstrated ability to meet past program performance targets and program design that utilizes partnerships to provide integrated services yielding student transition into postsecondary education, training, and employment.

## STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

**State Workforce System:** An interagency group consisting of State Workforce Innovation Board and WIOA core partners including the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Commerce), the Illinois Department of Employment Security (Employment Security), the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Vocational Rehabilitation), and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Adult Education and Literacy, created a Unified State Plan to implement statewide integrated services and submitted it to the Departments of Education and Labor. The interagency group continues to meet regularly to ensure strategic implementation of the delivery of integrated services through comprehensive One-Stop Centers in each economic development region throughout the state as outlined in the Unified State Plan.

## FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ⇒ The ICCB will continue collaborate with WIOA state partners to create joint professional development opportunities and provide technical assistance events to aid regional and local stakeholders in developing and implementing services that assist adults in improving their skills, achieving their educational goals, and transitioning to further education or employment.
- ⇒ The ICCB will convene an adult education taskforce to create an Adult Education Strategic Plan to ensure that all adult learners have access to integrated services that are cohesive, coordinated, and innovative to promote better economic and sustainable career pathways.
- ⇒ The ICCB will develop multiple alternative High School Equivalency (HSE) credentialing options to ensure multiple on ramps for adults to obtain an HSE credential based on a candidate's high school/HSE credit, postsecondary credit, foreign diploma, as well as a competency based achievement model.
- ⇒ The ICCB will improve outcomes by scaling effective Integrated Education and Workforce Training models statewide by expanding proven models and promising practices that yield targeted sector industry outcomes that transition students into sustainable employment in emerging career pathways.
- ⇒ The ICCB will provide on demand online resources to ensure that Adult Education curriculum and instruction prepares students for college and career through exploration activities, contextualize curriculum, technology usage, and targeted literacy enhancement that meet local business and community needs.
- ⇒ The ICCB will examine state data to ensure that all students have access to appropriate education and career pathway services that satisfy regional and local job market needs and identify external and internal supports that will eliminate or reduce barriers for student success.
- ⇒ The ICCB will work with the WIOA core and required partners to make modifications to the State Unified Plan.