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# FY 2018

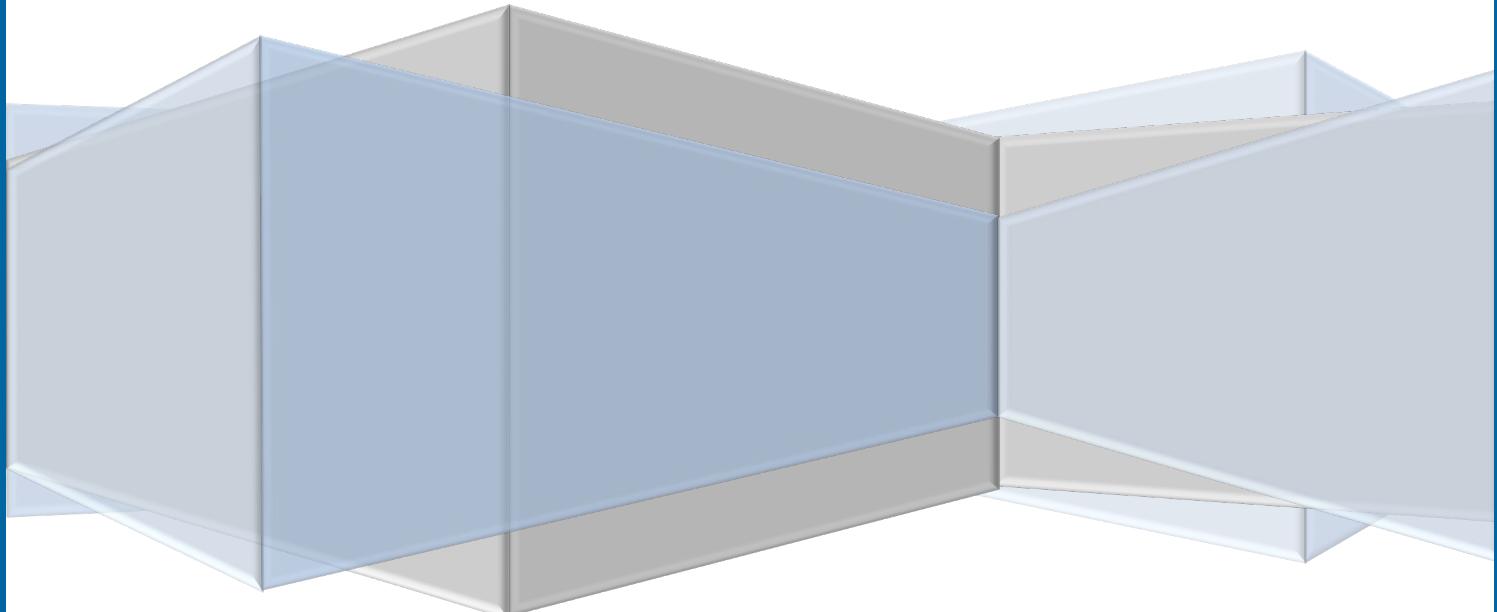
# ADULT EDUCATION

# AND LITERACY

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## REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE BOARD  
FY 2018  
ADULT EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Dr. Lazaro Lopez**  
*Chair*

**Dr. Brian Durham**  
*Executive Director*

**Jennifer K. Foster**  
*Deputy Executive  
Director*

**Jamil Steele**  
*Senior Director of Adult  
Education and Literacy*

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 VISION FOR ILLINOIS ADULT EDUCATION**

In partnership with other stakeholders, Illinois Adult Education and Literacy will create learning opportunities that align with statewide education, training, and employment strategies to ensure all adult learners have access to and success across services that are cohesive, coordinated, and innovative in order to promote better economic opportunities, greater equity, and sustainable career pathways. 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 in order to enter career pathways, obtain a sustainable wage, and meet the regional and local labor market need in Illinois.<sup>(1)</sup>

### **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

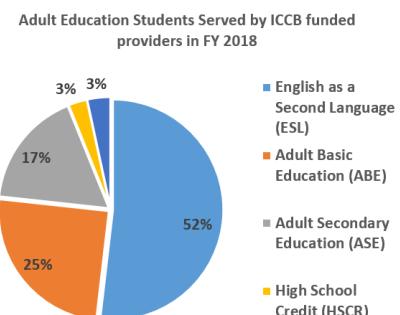
- assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency;
- assist adults who are parents or family members to obtain education and skills that are necessary to becoming full partners in the educational development of their children and lead 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 1.1 million of Illinois' 12.8 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are 437,833 adults with less than a 9th grade education.<sup>(2)</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>(2)</sup>
- More than 342,692 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education, and employment.<sup>(2)</sup>

Instruction Type	Students	Units <sup>(3)</sup>
English as a Second Language (ESL)	38,434	381,605
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	18,441	160,760
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	12,740	92,159
High School Credit (HSCR)	2,011	37,831
Vocational (VOC)	2,508	11,596
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,134</b>	<b>302,346</b>



1. *Expanding Career Pathway Opportunities in Adult Education: Strategic Directions for Illinois 2018-2023*
2. *U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2018*
3. *One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment*

### **Federal Performance:**

Between Program Year 2013 and 2018, Illinois has raised its overall performance in education gains by 11% (from 33% to 44%).

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

- English as-a-Second Language (ESL) learners constitute more than half (61%) of all Adult Education instruction. In FY 2018, there were 66 Adult Education providers throughout Illinois providing ESL instruction.
- Through innovative program design, Illinois Adult Education programs provided contextualized English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards based curriculum and instruction that ensures all adult English Language Learners (ELL) acquire English language skills while obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for transition into postsecondary education, training, and employment. Each program's curriculum contains targeted activities for career awareness based upon sector specific labor market needs, Digital Literacy, Mathematics, Reading, Writing, and Civics Education.
- In FY 2018, 36 programs throughout Illinois provided courses that addressed the ICCB's Civic Education Competencies. These competencies included topics such as the democratic process, housing, community resources, health services, and the U.S. school system. A total of 2,565 Civics students completed at least 15 attendance hours with 90% of the students meeting the competency requirement of completing at least two Civic competencies per unit of instruction. Students earned a total of 62,980 competencies in FY 2018 and acquired the necessary knowledge to participate more fully in their education, the workforce, and in obtaining citizenship.
- Twenty-six Adult Education Providers throughout the state offered Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IEL/CE) programs. IEL/CE programs provide ESL and Civics Education instruction, workforce preparation, and occupational training concurrently in order to help students obtain the skills needed to assess high demand employment. Students who exit IEL/CE programs transition into postsecondary education and/or employment.



## Workforce Success and Continuous Improvement

The Illinois adult education system remains committed to assisting adults to become college and career ready by improving their basic skills, helping them to achieve their educational goals, and transitioning them into further education or employment. Adult education offers customer-centered models that meet the workforce preparation needs of adults through contextualized curriculum and instruction designed to connect them to education, training, and employment.

In FY 2018, 74,134 students received Adult Education instructional services, and of those who enrolled in these services and took one of the three state approved high school equivalency test, approximately 85% earned a high school equivalency certificate.



### Adult Education Workforce Success

1. **Employment Rate 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:**  
Of the total 32,728 participants who exited programs, 30% were in unsubsidized employment during second quarter.
2. **Employment Rate 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:**  
Of the total 11,762 participants who exited programs, 28% were in unsubsidized employment during fourth quarter.
3. **Median Earnings:**  
The median earnings of program participants who were in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from program was \$4,393.
4. **Credential Obtainment:**  
37% of program participants obtained a recognized postsecondary credential, or a Secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent during participation in or within one year after exit from the program.
5. **Measurable Skill Gains:**  
44% of 61,402 participants during program year 2018 who were in an education or training program achieved measurable skill gains toward a recognized postsecondary credential or employment.

## **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act** **Title II—Adult Education Activities**

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Adult Education and Literacy program continues to work with state partners to provide business driven talent solutions that integrate education, workforce, and economic development resources across systems providing business, individuals, and communities with the opportunity to prosper and contribute to growing the state's economy.

To accomplish this charge, an Illinois Senate Joint Resolution (SJR40) was passed in July 2017, creating the Statewide Taskforce on the Future Direction of Adult Education and Literacy within the ICCB. The 25 taskforce members represented critical stakeholders, including WIOA core and required partners, with a responsibility to ensure the goals in this plan align with goals set forth in other key state-driven plans such as the Illinois Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Unified Plan, the ICCB Workforce Education Strategic Plan, the Report of the Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce, and the Illinois Postsecondary Workforce and Readiness Act.

### **Adult Education Strategic Plan Goals**

- Goal # 1 Improve Outcomes by Scaling Effective Models and Strategies across the system
- Goal # 2 Increase Postsecondary Transition and Credential Attainment
- Goal # 3 Strengthen College and Career Readiness
- Goal # 4 Develop Lifelong Career Pathways Systems and Integrate Enabling Technologies

### **WIOA Partnerships**

Adult Education continues to participate in all Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB) policy workgroups and state-level committees such as the IWIB Service Integration Policy Workgroup, the Integrated Business Services Committee, the Certification Policy Workgroup, Career Pathways Committee, Technology Committee, Evaluation and Accountability Committee, and the WIOA Summit Planning Group. Our participation ensures that integrated education and workforce development services are offered in every community targeting services to individuals in need of education, training, and employment. The ICCB continues to make certain the Workforce Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Adult Education Strategic Plan are aligned with the goals and strategies outlined in the WIOA Unified Plan and the Workforce Board Strategic plan.

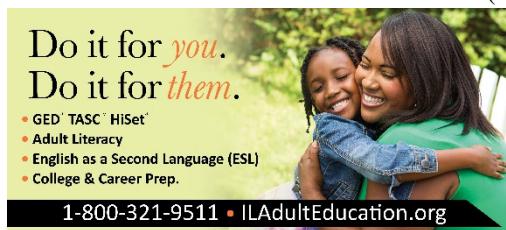
At the local level, adult education providers participate on the Local Workforce Innovation Boards, provide services at the Comprehensive One-Stop Centers, enter into the Memoranda of Understanding, and share in the infrastructure and shared delivery costs in all 22 Local Workforce Innovation Areas.

### **Workforce Partnership Summit**

In FY 2018 Adult Education providers participated in the WIOA Summit, a state-wide conference designed to bring together all WIOA partners, to learn about WIOA and their roles in the process. Five hundred individuals representing all the WIOA core and required partners attended the summit including 100 adult education providers. Later, in FY 2018, as a follow-up to the Summit, adult education participated in three sessions designed to promote business engagement among the WIOA partners.

### **Professional Development and Training**

Through the ICCB Adult Education and Literacy Professional Development Network as well as through WIOA partnerships, there are strong efforts to continue to provide training and technical assistance to practitioners. In FY 2018, practitioners from across the state received training in the development of Bridge Programs which contextualizes basic skills instruction with specific industry terminology and incorporates career awareness and transition activities; and Integrated Education and Training which blends adult education instruction with Career Technical Education (CTE) training in high demand occupations which leads to the receipt of college credit, an industry recognized credentials and certificates, as well as earning their high school equivalency certificate; as well as training in aligning Curriculum and Instruction with Illinois Adult Education Standards, including ESL; and integrating the Employability Framework in Instruction.



In FY 2018, a total of 4,180 students participated in Bridge Programs and 4,165 students successfully completed Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs and earned industry recognized credentials and employment in the following sectors:

- |                                          |                                                  |                                            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| • Arts, A/AV Technology & Communications | • Business Management & Administration           | • Education and Training                   |
| • Health Sciences                        | • Hospitality & Tourism                          | • Information Technology                   |
| • Manufacturing                          | • Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics | • Transportation, Distribution & Logistics |
| • Architecture & Construction            | • Human Services                                 |                                            |

## Provider Diversity

Services were offered through a variety of provider types in FY 2018. These types included the following:

Local Education Agencies	14
Faith-Based Organizations	2
Community-Based Organizations	22
Community, Junior, or Technical Colleges	37
Four-year Colleges or Universities	2
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>

## Adult Education and Literacy Resources Federal and State Funding in FY 2018

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$17,555,143
Federal IEL/Civics	\$ 2,624,123
State Basic Appropriation	\$21,572,400
State Performance	\$10,701,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$52,453,266</b>

## Program Approval and Selection

Fiscal year 2017 Adult Education providers were invited to apply for continuation of funding for FY 2018. Applicants were asked to submit proposals that summarized their past effectiveness of providing literacy instruction, integrated education and workforce activities; student recruitment and retention; and transitioning students 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

Adult Education continues to work within an interagency group consisting of the 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 other state agencies and business partners providing pathways for the educational and training needs of all learners and increasing the number of residents with high-quality postsecondary and industry-recognized credentials and degrees to meet the demands of Illinois changing economy through comprehensive integrated services.

## Future Initiatives

- The ICCB will continue work with stakeholders to expand work-based learning opportunities and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship models.
- The ICCB will continue to reduce barriers and create accelerated pathways and multiple on-ramps for career advancement for students to complete education and training to obtain better employment and wages in in-demand careers throughout the span of their work life.
- ICCB, through its diverse provider network and partnerships, will take action steps to accomplish the goals outline in the Adult Education Strategic Plan
- ICCB will work with WIOA partners to revise and update the WIOA Unified State Plan to ensure integrated services meet regional and local sector market needs.
- The ICCB will continue a new statewide billboard campaign aimed at the nearly 1.1 million Illinois' adults that have less than a high school diploma or equivalent and close to 2.8 million Illinoisans that speak a language other than English as their primary language. The "Do it for You, Do it for Them" campaign encourages adults to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency through high school equivalency testing, adult literacy programs, English as a Second Language instruction, and college and career preparation.
- The ICCB will assist building the Illinois talent pipeline through Integrated Education and Training programs that ensures that people entering the workforce possess the academic, digital literacy, workplace essential skills, and occupation training to meet business needs.
- The ICCB will strengthen collaboration between Adult Education and Career and Technical Education programs throughout the state, providing professional development and supports for teachers to flourish in Integrated Education and Training models.
- The ICCB will continue to work with workforce partners to ensure all participants have the adequate Math, Reading, Speaking and Writing skills to enter into in-demand industry education training programs.

