



WIOA NEWSLETTER

Spotlight on the WIOA Core & Required Partners—Pt. 2

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This is the second issue in our series highlighting the core and required WIOA partners. This issue will focus on Title II: Adult Education & Family Literacy.

The purpose of this series is to provide you with a basic understanding of the many WIOA partners, how they are structured and administered. Knowing how the other partners operate can be very helpful information when you are partnering on projects, working together with clients, and addressing One-Stop issues and the Memoranda of Understanding.

WIOA Core Partners

Title I	Workforce Development / DCEO
Title II	Adult Education & Family Literacy / ICCB
Title III	Wagner Peyser / IDES
Title IV	Vocational Rehabilitation / DHS

Title II—Adult Education & Family Literacy [ICCB]

Title II of WIOA is funded through the US Department of Education Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) and is administered by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Title II of WIOA reauthorizes and enhances the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. (AEFLA)

The purpose of Title II is 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 lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their families;
- Assist adults in attaining a secondary school diploma and in the transition to postsecondary education and training, through career pathways; and
- Assist immigrants and other individuals who are English language learners in –
 - Improving their –
 - * Reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills in English, and
 - * Mathematics skills; and
 - Acquiring an understanding of the American system of government, individual freedom, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

The Illinois Community College Board is the state agency responsible for governing the Adult Education system in Illinois. Currently there are 86 providers of Adult Education and Family Literacy in Illinois that consist of Community Colleges, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), and other approved providers. The mission and vision of Adult Education is to provide every individual in Illinois access to Adult Education and Literacy services. In Illinois, more than 1.7 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education, approximately 2.6 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English in their home, and more than 552,000 immigrants reside in Illinois. The Illinois Community College Board seeks to prepare adult learners to compete for jobs of the present and the future. To accomplish this it is necessary to build a system that is education, training, and workforce focused.

Key Highlights of WIOA Title II

Strengthens alignment between Adult Education, postsecondary education, and employers:

WIOA recognizes that the core purpose of Adult Education is to prepare individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in postsecondary education and the workforce.

- Expands the purpose of Adult Education to emphasize that activities should increase an individual's ability to transition to postsecondary education and obtain employment.
- Promotes the integration of Adult Education with occupational education and training, as well as development of career pathways systems.
- Authorizes the use of funds for "Integrated Education and Training" and "workforce preparation activities"; and
- Clarifies that Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education programs provide workforce training.
- Requires the addition of instruction and assessment of mathematical skills in English Language Acquisition (ELA, formerly ESL—English as a Second Language) curricula.
- Encourages activities provided in collaboration with employers

Encourages establishment of a high-quality local adult education delivery system:

WIOA amends the considerations States are to use in awarding grants and contracts to local program providers. The considerations focus on the following areas:

- An increased emphasis on alignment of activities with regional needs identified in local plans under Title I;
- Serving individuals with disabilities;
- Instructional activities based on rigorous research;
- Effective use of technology;
- activities that promote Integrated Education and Training; and
- Coordination with education, training, employers, and social service providers to promote career pathways.

Authorizes three new activities for Adult Education:

WIOA reauthorizes all current activities within Adult Education and adds three new activities.

- **Integrated Education and Training** - A service approach that provides adult education and literacy activities concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

- **Workforce Preparation** - Activities, programs, or services designed to help an individual acquire a combination of basic academic skills, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and self-management skills, including competencies in utilizing resources, using information, working with others, understanding systems, and obtaining skills necessary for successful transition into and completion of postsecondary education or training, or employment.
- **Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education** - Education services provided to English language learners who are adults, including professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries, that enables such adults to achieve competency in the English language and acquire the basic and more advanced skills needed to function effectively as parents, workers, and citizens in the United States. Such services shall include instruction in literacy and English language acquisition and instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic participation, and may include workforce training.

Authorizes new leadership activities:

WIOA adds four new required leadership activities to be supported with State leadership funds.

- WIOA encourages activities to support alignment among core programs to implement the State plan strategy, including:
 - The development of career pathways;
 - Establishment of high quality professional development programs to improve instruction;
 - Technical assistance based on rigorous research; and
- Evaluation and dissemination of information about promising practices within the state.

Supports educational and career advancement for incarcerated individuals:

WIOA encourages a range of education and job training activities to promote successful reentry and reduce recidivism.

- Funds may be used for Integrated Education and Training, career pathways, concurrent enrollment, peer tutoring, and transition to re-entry initiatives and other services with the goal of reducing recidivism.

Questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the WIOA Newsletter or WIOA page on the ICCB website?

Please email inquiries and suggestions to:

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