

Illinois Community College Board



Guy H. Alongi
Chairman

Geoffrey S. Obrzut
President/CEO

To: Adult Education Program Administrators
From: Jennifer K. Foster, Senior Director for Adult Education
Date: July 26, 2011
Subject: PM2012-1: NRS Performance Targets

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) has recently completed negotiations with the Federal government and attached are the new FY12 National Reporting Systems (NRS) targets for Illinois. These targets are ambitious and as we have discussed our data in the past, our focus as a state will be to exceed these targets.

At the Regional Meetings that will be held in August, programs will be asked to update the Educational Functional Level (EFL) targets proposed in their continuation plans and resubmit them. Along with this submission, we are requiring that programs submit an action plan for achieving or exceeding each NRS State Target in FY12. If your program's FY11 NRS level completions rates met or exceeded the state's FY12 targets for a particular NRS level, no plan is required for that level. However, it is expected that programs who have performed at or above the FY12 state target will demonstrate continuous improvement and performance will not decrease in that NRS level.

In addition, you will also see that targets have been set high in other areas as well. For instance, because Illinois is in the bottom quartile of transitioning students to postsecondary education as well as the attainment of GED/High School diploma, it is imperative as a state that we perform to a more acceptable standard. It is imperative that programs look at ways to provide better counseling related to the attainment of the GED credential as well as delivering more bridge programs, career development or transition activities designed to assist students in moving to postsecondary education.

As you can see the overall increase is 9% over our FY2010 actual performance. The ICCB negotiates targets based upon actual performance from the previous year's completed data submitted December 31 of each year. These targets are very steep, and we must, as a state, strive to attain these very ambitious targets. In the very near future, the ICCB will examine the connection of the program's attainment of the performance targets to adult education funding.

For this year, programs must:

- examine orientation processes and, examine enrollment practices and their impact on performance
- pay particular attention to intensity and duration and examine how long students receive instruction,
- review goal setting activities to ensure that students set goals appropriately based upon their understanding of long-term goals versus those that are attainable in a year's time as well as consideration of their educational functioning level in setting the goal,
- appropriately pre and post-test students within the testing guidelines based upon attendance hours, and
- ensure students are being separated from the program appropriately.

If you have questions, please feel free to bring them to the Summer Regional Meetings or contact your Regional Support Specialist.