

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
FISCAL YEAR 2003 ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY
REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

There is a critical need for Adult Education and Family Literacy services in Illinois.

► More than 1.7 million of Illinois' 9.7 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are more than 682,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. (*U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2003*)

► Nearly 700,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. These individuals need English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education and the workforce. (*U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2003*)

► Almost 2.3 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English as the primary language in their home. Formal education and English literacy skills are necessary for entry and advancement in the labor force. (*U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2003*)

► 36,373 high school dropouts were reported in 2001-2002. The need for Adult Education among young adults continues to be strong. (Illinois State Board of Education records, 2003)

Adult Education Students Served in Fiscal Year 2003

English-as-a-Second Language	86,197
Adult Basic Education	37,105
Adult Secondary Education/GED	19,195
High School Credit	2,780
Vocational Training	4,436
Total Students Served	149,713

Welfare recipients continue to have access to a full range of Adult Education Services that help reduce welfare dependency.

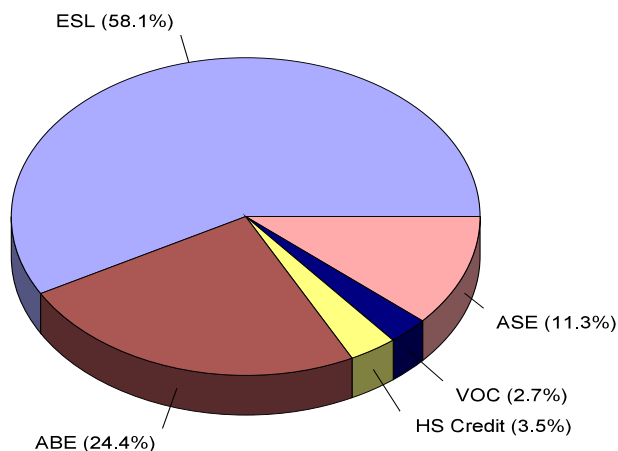
► 21,792 individuals receiving public assistance were enrolled in Adult Education and Family Literacy programs during Fiscal Year 2003. This represents 14.6 percent of all Adult Education and Family Literacy enrollments. (STAIRS)

► Adult Education and Family Literacy students receiving public assistance gained skills which helped reduce or cancel their public assistance grants that amounted to millions of dollars in welfare savings. (Illinois Community College Board 2003 and Illinois Common Performance Management System)

Fiscal Year 2003 Adult Education units of instruction increased to 1,377,827.

Units of Instruction Provided	Units
English-as-a-Second Language	801,042
Adult Basic Education	336,610
Adult Secondary Education/GED	154,975
High School Credit	48,239
Vocational Training/Job Skills	36,961
Total Units of Instruction	1,377,827

Adult Education and Family Literacy Units of Instruction



The support of English Literacy/Civics is crucial to the Adult Education system.

► English-as-a-Second Language learners constitute the majority (57.6 percent) of the Adult Education population.

► ICCB held its first English Literacy/Civics Conference in 2003. The conference provided professional development activities for instructors to enhance the delivery of English Literacy/Civics classroom instruction.

Adult Education in Illinois exceeded Federal Performance Targets.

► In 2003, Adult Education and Family Literacy exceeded the federal performance targets under the Workforce Investment Act. Subject to federal verification, all three entities including the Adult Education and Family Literacy system, the Carl D. Perkins Career Technical Education Act and WIA Title I met their respective performance measures. Attainment of these high standards determine Illinois' eligibility to receive federal incentive funds.

► In July 2003, a USDOE–OVAE Federal Team visited Illinois and reviewed Adult Education activities. Illinois Adult Education received several commendations for initiatives including: Promoting Integrated Funding Resources, Meeting Special Learning Needs, Using Collaborative Process to Improve the Funding Formula, Supporting GED Illinois Online Instructional System, and Encouraging Statewide Collaboration in One-stop Partnerships.

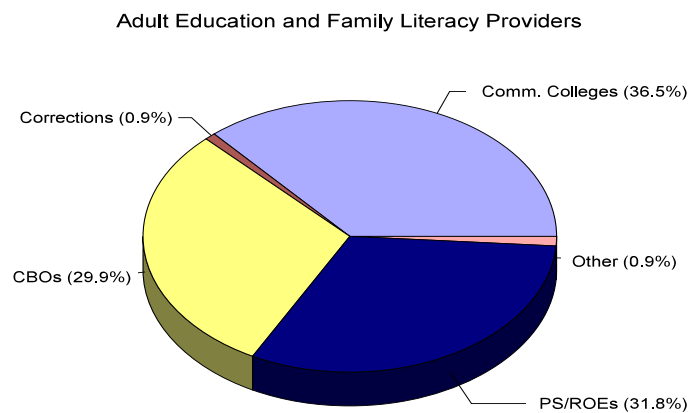
Administrative progress continues at the ICCB.

► The Adult Education and Family Literacy Funding Task Force continues to review, assess, and evaluate the current methodologies used to allocate financial resources to the Illinois Adult Education and Family Literacy system. The Funding Task Force representation includes community-based organizations, community colleges, school districts, Regional Offices of Education, the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association, and other interested parties.

► The Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council composed of all provider types and other stakeholders continues to advise the ICCB on issues pertinent to Adult Education. In fiscal year 2003, the Council examined important topics in Adult Education including: the implementation of a new assessment test for ESL, the review of professional standards in adult education, and the development of a new data collection system.

The diversity of Adult Education providers is a strength of the Adult Education and Family Literacy system.

<u>Provider Group</u>	<u>Count</u>
Community College Districts	39
Public Education Affiliates/ Regional Offices of Education	34
Community-Based Organizations	32
Correctional Institutions	1
Other	1
Total	107



The use of technology in Adult Education and Family Literacy increases access for learners.

► The GED Illinois Online project increases access to Adult Education for learners statewide. Illinois Adult Education programs use technology to offer entire courses for GED Illinois via distance learning methods as well as a supplement to current classroom instruction. The internet address for GED Illinois is <http://www.gedillinois.org>.

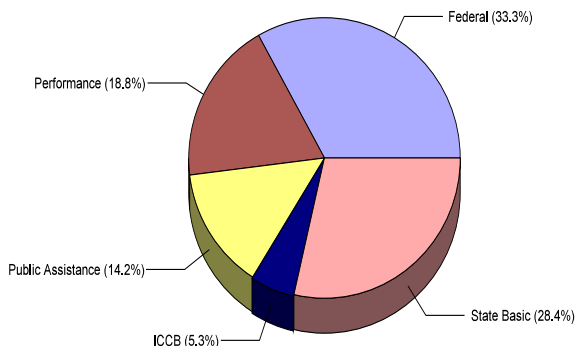
► Illinois participated in Project IDEAL which is a national consortium of thirteen states who are investigating the use of distance learning in Adult Education. Components of this project will help Illinois remain a leader in the area of distance education.

► Funding based on performance is an important component in the allocation of funds. Nearly one-fifth of the dollars are distributed based on Adult Education program outcomes.

Allocation of Funds by Sources

Federal Basic	\$18,605,700
State Basic	\$15,829,599
Public Assistance	\$ 7,922,099
Performance	\$ 9,967,210
ICCB EL/Civics	\$ 2,944,804
Total	\$55,269,412

Allocation of Funds by Source for Adult Education and Family Literacy



State Reimbursement Rates for Community-Based Organizations, Regional Offices of Education, and School Districts

Adult Basic Education	\$76.00
Adult Secondary Education	\$68.40
Vocational Skills Training	\$95.00

State Reimbursement Rates for Community Colleges

Adult Basic Education	\$62.84
Adult Secondary Education	\$55.24
Vocational Skills Training	\$81.84

Section 10-22.20 of the Illinois School Code requires that community colleges deduct the state funding for ABE/ASE/ESL received through the ICCB. In FY 03, that rate was \$13.16.

Criteria for Program Approval

Proposals for funding are reviewed by staff of the Illinois Community College Board and state entities familiar with Adult Education and Family Literacy programming. The review criteria include the quality of the proposed programs and services in the following areas:

- Service to target populations.
- Quantifiable need in the service area.
- Access to a diversity of services.
- Use of effective and diverse instructional strategies.
- Provision of needed support services.
- Coordination with other funding sources.
- Past performance, particularly in relation to student recruitment, retention and learning gains.
- Funding requests in relationship to programs offered, students served, and performance outcomes to be achieved.

Future Challenges

- Develop a new state plan as required by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (Title II of the Workforce Investment Act). The plan should be consistent with the policies and procedures of the ICCB and should incorporate recommendations of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Funding Task Force.
- Implement a new funding formula that promotes stability, equality, and diversity of Adult Education programs while insuring access for individuals to services statewide. Continue to seek and expand fiscal resources to meet the need for Adult Education.
- Implement an enhanced monitoring and evaluation process for all funded Adult Education programs that is consistent with the requirements of Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy and ICCB policies and procedures.
- Further develop content standards in Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, and English-as-a-Second Language to enhance consistency in classroom instruction.
- Continue development of a web-based data collection system that will strengthen the quality, accuracy, and reliability of data.