

*Illinois Community College Board*

**FY 2006  
ADULT EDUCATION  
AND  
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities  
during the fiscal year July 1, 2005  
through June 30, 2006*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2006 ADULT EDUCATION  
AND FAMILY LITERACY  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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**ICCB's Promise for Illinois Adult Education**

Economic and demographic changes are dramatically increasing the need for adult education, basic literacy, and English-as-a-Second Language programs. Millions of Illinois residents lack the level of literacy skills needed to obtain good jobs, perform well on the job, and function well in an increasingly complex society. Addressing the scope and diversity of need for adult education and literacy skills takes community colleges, public schools, community based organizations, and others working together to provide the education and services needed by a wide variety of adult learners.

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is committed to strengthening these partnerships and working to expand Adult Education and Family Literacy services that will enable individuals to increase basic skills and become more productive citizens.

**Purpose of Adult Education**

The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is to create a partnership among the Federal government, States, and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who have attained 16 years of age or above, who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law; and to provide instructional and support services that are designed to:

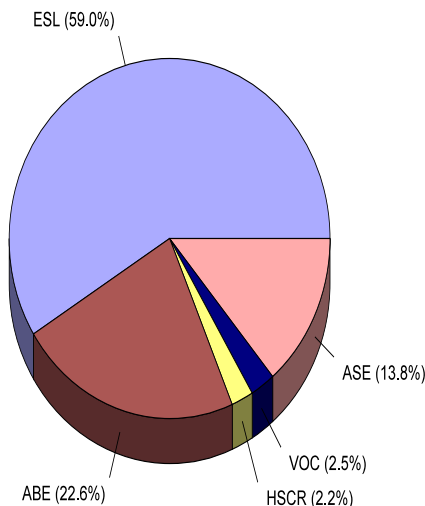
- assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency;
- assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and
- assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education.

**There is a Critical Need for Adult Education in Illinois**

- Almost 1.8 million of Illinois' 9.8 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are close to 698,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2006)
- Approximately 670,000 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. Many of these individuals need English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education and the workforce and to obtain citizenship. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2006)
- More than 2.3 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English as the primary language in their home. Many are in need of English literacy skills for entry and advancement in the labor force. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2006)

**FY 2006 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education**

**Students in Adult Education and Family Literacy**



<u>Instruction Type</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Units*</u>
<b>English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)</b>	<b>78,003</b>	<b>725,728</b>
<b>Adult Basic Education (ABE)</b>	<b>29,913</b>	<b>253,922</b>
<b>Adult Secondary Education (ASE)/GED</b>	<b>18,208</b>	<b>141,004</b>
<b>High School Credit (HSCR)</b>	<b>2,893</b>	<b>49,103</b>
<b>Vocational (VOC)</b>	<b>3,249</b>	<b>20,769</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132,266</b>	<b>1,190,526</b>

\*One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment.

## WORKFORCE PREPARATION

- ❑ Earning a General Education Development (GED) provides individuals opportunities to further employment, training, and postsecondary education. 13,406 individuals earned GED awards in Illinois during fiscal year 2006.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2006, 18,693 adult education students who completed instruction received earnings in the first quarter following their program exit and 83% of these individuals maintained earnings in the third quarter after exiting the program.
- ❑ 17,616 individuals receiving public assistance enrolled in Adult Education and Family Literacy programs and gained the education and workforce preparation skills necessary for their success.

## ENGLISH-AS-A-SECOND LANGUAGE AND EL/CIVICS

- ❑ English-as-a-Second Language learners continue to constitute the majority (58.97 percent) of Adult Education instruction. Eighty-one Adult Education programs throughout Illinois provide ESL instruction.
- ❑ More than 8,900 EL/Civics funded students were served in 47 Adult Education programs throughout the state. These learners become more competent in English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education, the workforce and to obtain citizenship.
- ❑ An English Literacy Civics Summer Institute focused on "Learner Centered Instruction" provided more than 81 instructors with training on creating lessons and activities for meaningful language practice.
- ❑ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center network conducted 228 professional development activities attended by 327 EL/Civics and Citizenship instructors and 1,633 ESL instructors. The activities centered on a variety of professional development activities that addressed multi-level classes, curriculum development, authentic materials and other topics appropriate for ESL and EL/Civics instruction.
- ❑ EL/Civics Competencies that address the topics of the Democratic Process, Housing, Community Resources, US School System and Health Services have been developed by the ESL Task Force and have been piloted throughout the state.

## ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

- ❑ Illinois Adult Education and Family Literacy exceeded its Workforce Investment Act performance targets at 119 percent of the goal in Fiscal Year 2006. Attainment of these high standards determine Illinois' eligibility to receive additional federal incentive funds.
- ❑ More than 3,500 students in Illinois are enrolled in GED Illinois Online, a national recognized world-class web-based GED curriculum developed to expand the availability of Adult Education programming in Illinois. GED Illinois is at: <http://www.gedillinois.org>
- ❑ The ICCB AEFL Division is continuing to participate as part of the USDOE–Office of Vocational and Adult Education STAR (Student Achievement in Reading) Project. ICCB Adult Education continues to work with pilot sites to implement the Evidence Based Reading Research in their adult education programs and plans are underway to roll-out this research to the entire state.
- ❑ The ESL Content Standards have been developed, piloted and disseminated to all programs. The first phase of implementation of the standards in local programs will be a series of ESL Curriculum Institutes. The focus of the 2 1/2 day Institutes is to assist local programs in aligning their current curriculum to the ESL Content Standards or to develop a new curriculum based on the Standards.
- ❑ The development of the ABE/ASE Content Standards and Benchmarks is complete and will be field tested by teachers from 14 Adult Education and Family Literacy programs in Illinois. The benchmarks identify skills for reading, writing, math, and computer use for students at the ABE and ASE levels.

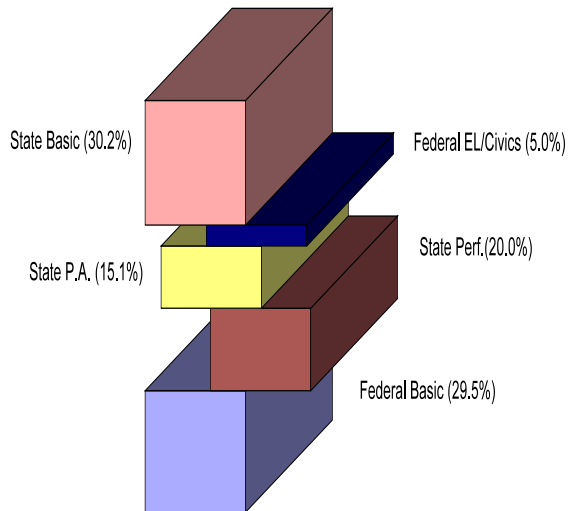
## PROVIDER DIVERSITY

Adult Education and Family Literacy is committed to a diversity of providers delivering instruction to all areas of the state.

<b>Community Colleges</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Public Schools / Regional Offices of Education</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Community-Based Organizations</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Public University</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Illinois Department of Corrections</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>

## ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Funds by Source for Adult Education and Family Literacy



### Federal and State Funding in Fiscal Year 2006

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$15,449,369
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 2,664,006
State Basic Appropriation	\$15,829,600
State Performance	\$10,491,800
State Public Assistance (PA)	<u>\$ 7,922,100</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,356,875</b>

### State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education	\$ 86.07
Adult Secondary Education	\$ 77.46
Vocational Skills Training	\$107.58

## PROGRAM APPROVAL CRITERIA

Proposals for funding are reviewed by staff from the ICCB and partner state entities familiar with Adult Education and Family Literacy. The review criteria include:

- Program Planning
- Educational Gains
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Staffing and Staff Development
- Support Services
- Recruitment
- Student Retention

## STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

- ❑ The AEFL Advisory Council continues to meet with great success. The council includes representatives from community based organizations, community colleges, public school/ Regional Offices of Education, the Departments of Corrections and Human Services, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Secretary of State Literacy Office, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and other important stakeholders. Currently, the council's focus includes curriculum and instruction, student support and transition services, policy studies, research, and accountability, and professional development/training and marketing.
- ❑ Since the transfer a GED Testing Administration, an Advisory Committee has been established consisting of representatives of the Regional Offices of Education (ROE) and the Cook County GED Testing Program as well as other stakeholders. The Committee is working with the ICCB to identify and address testing and program issues surrounding GED test administration.

## FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Continue to seek additional resources to meet the needs of Adult Education students in Illinois.
- ❑ Continue to seek additional funding for GED Testing Administration statewide.
- ❑ Develop a new State Plan for Adult Education consistent with the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.
- ❑ Implement the web-based DAIS-I (Data and Information Systems -Illinois) system for all adult education and family literacy programs, further increasing the accuracy of Adult Education data reported to the State and Federal governments.
- ❑ Train on the use of the ESL content standards and the EL/ Civics competencies ensuring that Illinois is on the cutting edge in instruction for non-native speakers and those seeking citizenship.
- ❑ Develop and implement an evaluation process ensuring programs provide quality instruction to all of Illinois' students.
- ❑ Implement the ABE/ASE Content standards throughout the AEFL system through pilot testing and begin to align curriculum.

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