

Illinois Community College Board

**FY 2008
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities
during the fiscal year July 1, 2007
through June 30, 2008*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2008 ADULT EDUCATION
AND FAMILY LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

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ICCB's Promise for Illinois Adult Education

Given the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in today's society, adult education services are needed now more than ever. There are millions of Illinois residents who have either not completed their high school education or lack the basic literacy and language skills needed to obtain jobs in Illinois. For these individuals, obtaining these skills will prepare them to enter into employment opportunities as well as post-secondary education.

Through a diverse provider system and collaboration with stakeholders to increase access to adult education services, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is committed to strengthening programs and services by enhancing instructional offerings and equipping students with the necessary skills to successfully transition to post-secondary education and employment.

Purpose of Adult Education

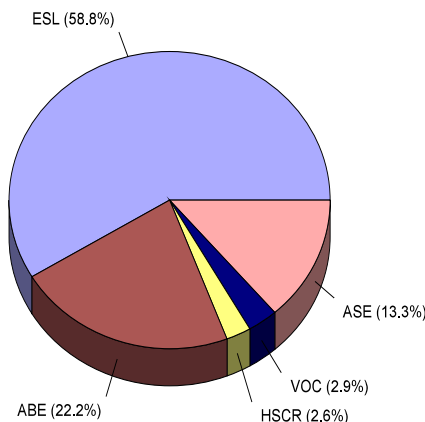
The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is to create a partnership among the Federal government, States, and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who have attained 16 years of age 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

- ❑ More than 1.8 million of Illinois' 10 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are close to 731,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. The number of adults with less than a 9th grade education has increased by 7% since 2004. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2008)
- ❑ Approximately 2.34 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English as the primary language in their home. English literacy skills for entry and advancement in the labor force are needed by many of these residents. (U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2008)
- ❑ Almost 644,000 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, 2008)

Students in Adult Education and Family Literacy



FY 2008 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education

<u>Instruction Type</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Units*</u>
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	69,557	632,388
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	26,208	203,381
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)/GED	16,028	111,841
High School Credit (HSCR)	3,022	43,032
Vocational (VOC)	3,451	18,999
TOTAL	118,266	1,009,641

*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 post-secondary education. 15,734 individuals earned GED awards in Illinois during fiscal year 2008.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2008, 11,768 adult education students who completed instruction received earnings in the first quarter following their program exit and 82% of these individuals maintained earnings in the third quarter after exiting the program.
- ❑ In Fiscal Year 2008, 14,539 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 (58.8%) of Adult Education instruction. There are 82 Adult Education programs throughout Illinois that provide ESL instruction.
- ❑ More than 9,493 EL/Civics funded students were served in 41 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.
- ❑ EL/Civics Competencies that address the topics of the Democratic Process, Housing, Community Resources, US School System and Health Services have been implemented and are in use by all programs that receive EL/Civics funding in Illinois.
- ❑ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center Network conducted 203 professional development activities attended by 1,683 ESL, Citizenship and EL/Civics instructors. These events centered on a variety of professional development activities that addressed multi-level classes, curriculum development and other topics appropriate for ESL and EL/Civics instruction.

ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

- ❑ Illinois Adult Education and Family Literacy exceeded its Workforce Investment Act performance targets at 101% of the goal in Fiscal Year 2008. Attainment of these high standards determine Illinois' eligibility to receive additional federal incentive funds.
- ❑ GEDi, a web-based program developed within our state, has expanded nationally. This web-based GED curriculum expands the availability of Adult Education programming for students in Illinois. GED Illinois is at: <http://www.gedillinois.org>
- ❑ The ICCB AEFL Division continues to serve as a pilot state for evidence-based research with the U.S. Department of Vocational and Adult Education in the Student Achievement in Reading (STAR) project.
- ❑ Ten ESL Curriculum Institutes were held statewide. Programs used these institutes to align curriculum to reflect ESL Content Standards and improve ESL instruction.
- ❑ A peer review process was implemented in FY08. This process allowed adult education programs to undergo review by other adult education professionals within the field to help evaluate and improve local programming.
- ❑ DAIS-I (Data and Information System-Illinois), a new web-based data system, was successfully launched and used by all adult education programs in FY08. The new system equips providers with new tools to manage and improve program performance.

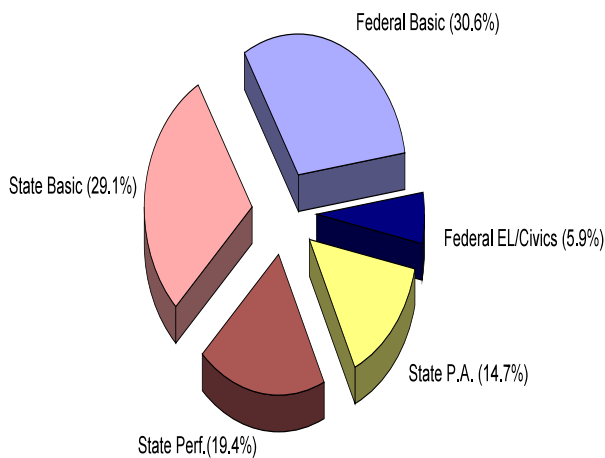
PROVIDER DIVERSITY

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

Local Education Agencies	28
Faith-based organizations	4
Community-Based Organizations	26
Community, Junior or Technical Colleges	39
Four-year Colleges or Universities	1
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
TOTAL	99

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Funds by Source for Adult Education and Family Literacy



Federal and State Funding in Fiscal Year 2008

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,839,177
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 3,285,495
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,026,200
State Performance	\$ 10,701,600
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 8,080,500
TOTAL:	\$ 54,932,972

State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education = \$ 86.07

Adult Secondary Education = \$ 77.46

Vocational Skills Training = \$ 107.58

* ESL is the same as ABE and HSCR is the same as ASE.

PROGRAM APPROVAL

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.
- ❑ The ICCB has formed the Latino Advisory Committee to examine the educational policies of ICCB that relate to Latino student needs. This committee will make recommendations to the ICCB to improve the educational pipeline for Latino students.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ❑ Continue to seek additional resources to meet the needs of Adult Education students in Illinois and seek additional funding for GED Testing Administration statewide.
- ❑ Develop a new State Plan for Adult Education consistent with the re-authorization of the Workforce Investment Act.
- ❑ With feedback from providers and stakeholders, review and realign Strategic Plans and Vision and Goal document for Adult Education and Family Literacy
- ❑ Review and evaluate new assessment instruments to be used in ABE, ASE and ESL instruction
- ❑ Review EL Civics competencies and number of students completing competencies with EL Civics instruction
- ❑ Develop new transition initiatives designed to help adult education students transition to post-secondary education and employment
- ❑ Implement ABE/ASE Content standards throughout the AEFL system through pilot testing and alignment with program curriculum.