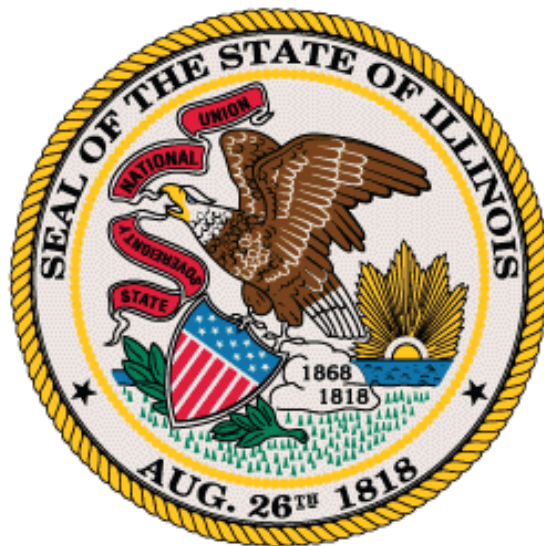


# *Illinois Community College Board*

## **FY 2014 ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY**



## **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities during the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014*

**ILLINOIS  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
BOARD**

**FY 2014**

**ADULT  
EDUCATION AND  
FAMILY  
LITERACY  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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Report also available as a  
PDF file on the Web at  
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Printed by the Authority  
of the State of Illinois  
2/27/15 600.

For the purpose of  
compliance with  
Section 511 of  
Public Law 101-166 (the  
Stevens Amendment),  
approximately 100%  
federal funds were used  
to produce this  
publication.

**ICCB'S PROMISE FOR ILLINOIS ADULT EDUCATION**

The ICCB continues to build and expand opportunities for adult education students to transition into college and the workforce. Beyond preparation for the high school equivalency exam or improving English language skills, adult education in Illinois is dedicated to building on the pathways created to assist students to obtain or improve their employment options and successfully enroll and complete postsecondary education. Expanded bridge and transition programming, integrated models of instructional delivery, alignment of standards with the Common Core State Standards and College and Career Readiness Standards, technology, career development and awareness skills, evidence based models, and the use of data for decision making, are all designed to make the promise a reality for many low skilled adults. Through a diverse provider network, we will continue to work collaboratively toward fulfilling the goals of the strategic plan and to build on past successes. This includes a focus on services that equip adult students with the skills necessary to compete and thrive in Illinois.

**Purpose of Adult Education**

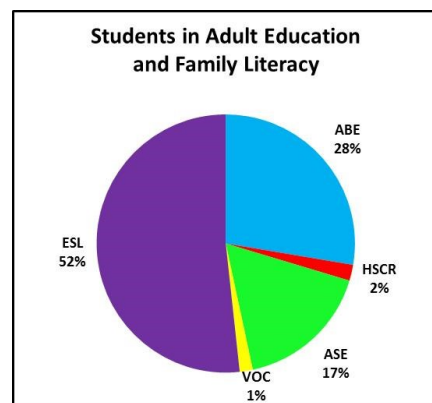
The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is to create a partnership among the Federal government, states and local communities to provide adult education and literacy services to individuals who have attained 16 years of age or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

**Adult Education Fills a Critical Need in Illinois**

- ⇒ Almost 1.2 million of Illinois' 10.1 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are 497,870 people with less than a 9th grade education.<sup>(1)</sup>
- ⇒ Approximately 2.73 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English as the primary language in their homes. English literacy skills for entry and advancement in the labor force are needed by many of these residents.<sup>(1)</sup>
- ⇒ More than 370,379 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education and employment.<sup>(1)</sup>

<b>FY 2014 Students Served and Units Provided in Adult Education</b>		
<b>Instruction Type</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Units <sup>2</sup></b>
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	45,284	470,766
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	24,205	228,114
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	14,882	129,565
High School Credit (HSCR)	1,749	34,074
Vocational (VOC)	1,433	10,661
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87,553</b>	<b>873,180</b>



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2014

<sup>2</sup> One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment

## WORKFORCE PREPARATION

The preparation of students for success in the workforce remains a major goal of the adult education system. Assisting low-skilled adults in attaining skills that are necessary for this success is important.

One of the ways in which the program helps students to be successful is the receipt of a Illinois High School Equiv-

alency Certificate (IHSEC). The IHSEC provides individuals with opportunities to further employment, training, and postsecondary education.

FY14 saw the launch of the new 2014 GED® test in January. The number of individuals earning a GED® in all of FY14 was 14,646.

In Fiscal Year 2014, 61% of Adult Education students were still employed nine months after completing instruction and entering the workforce.

The program also provided services to 15,448 individuals receiving public assistance which assisted them in gaining the education and workforce preparation skills necessary for their success.

## ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

⇒ The Illinois Community College Board's Adult Education and Family Literacy program was selected for a \$1.6 million implementation grant for Accelerating Opportunity in FY11. This project implemented a model that blends both basic skills and career and technical education skills together to accelerate the process of adult education students accessing postsecondary education, training and employment. Eight community college adult education programs in Illinois implemented the program in FY12. Four colleges were added in FY13, six more colleges in FY14 and seven additional colleges are planned for FY15. By the end of FY15, 25 colleges will be participating in this project that is administered through Jobs for the Future and is funded through entities that include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Joyce Foundation.

⇒ Bridge programming addresses the need to help students understand and prepare for occupations that labor market data indicates are available employment options within their geographic area. Bridge instructional programs have three core components: contextualization; career awareness and development; and transitions services. During FY14, 37 programs offered bridge instruction. Additionally a model bridge curriculum in the area of Transportation, Distribution and Logistics was finalized and made available for use by programs. This is the third model bridge curriculum centered on the career clusters developed for adult education programs.

⇒ Adult Education continues to increase the use of Evidence Based Reading Instruction (EBRI) through intensive professional development to programs and instructors. This method of instruction requires intensive training and is specifically designed to help improve reading comprehension and fluency for intermediate level students. Currently 67 programs have received training and implemented EBRI instruction into the services offered.

⇒ i-Pathways, an Illinois developed online curriculum project, is in use by adult education programs in Illinois as well as other programs across the country. It provides computer-based, instructor-assisted online learning for students to prepare for their high school equivalency. More information about this project can be found at: <http://www.i-pathways.org/>

⇒ During FY14, a study was conducted to examine statewide ESL data and provide recommendations for state and program level practices for ESL students. The study was completed and is currently under review.

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

⇒ English-as-a-Second Language learners constitute the majority (52%) of Adult Education instruction. In FY12, there were 67 Adult Education providers throughout Illinois providing ESL instruction.

⇒ EL/Civics Competencies address the topics of the Democratic Process, Housing, Community Resources, US School System and Health Services and are used by all programs receiving EL/Civics funding. Of the 5,356 EL/Civics funded students completing at least 15 attendance hours, 4,783 (89%) met the competency requirement by completing at least two EL/Civics competencies for each fifteen attendance hours earned. As a group, these students completed a total of 149,122 competencies. These learners become more competent in English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education, the workforce and to obtain citizenship. In FY14, 40 Adult Education programs received EL/Civics funding.

⇒ The Adult Education and Family Literacy Service Center Network conducted 67 professional development activities tailored to ESL and EL/Civics issues. Sessions addressed items such as ESL and EL/Civics instruction including multi-level classes and curriculum development.

### PROVIDER DIVERSITY

Services were offered through a variety of provider types in FY14. These types included the following:

Local Education Agencies	20
Faith-Based Organizations	3
Community-Based Organizations	25
Community, Junior or Technical Colleges	39
Four-year Colleges or Universities	1
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>

### ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

#### Federal and State Funding in FY 2014

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 17,277,388
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 2,779,086
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,026,200
State Performance	\$ 10,701,600
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 5,546,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 52,330,474</b>

#### State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education = \$ 101.98  
 Adult Secondary Education = \$ 91.78  
 Vocational Skills Training = \$ 127.48  
 • ESL is the same as ABE and HSCR matches ASE.

### PROGRAM APPROVAL AND SELECTION

A competitive grant process occurred in FY13. Adult Education and Family Literacy programs were asked to submit continuation proposals to provide services for FY14 and FY15. As a part of the continuation proposal, applicants were asked to address a host of topics related to adult education and student services.

ICCB is currently examining the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and making preparations for new activities that will be incorporated into future program approval and selection related to Employer Engagement, Integrated Education and Training and Integrated Civics instruction.

### STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

⇒ Illinois applied and was selected to participate in “Defining Adult Education under WIOA: Messaging with Infographics” an activity sponsored by the Department of Education. Illinois will have representation from both Adult Education and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity at this activity as the state prepares for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

⇒ Stakeholder collaboration will be a key component in updating the Strategic Plan for Adult Education. The updated plan will build on the successes of the prior plan and map out future objectives for services in Illinois.

⇒ The ICCB Latino Advisory Committee focuses on education, immigration and workforce issues that impact Latino students in adult education programs and community colleges.

### FUTURE INITIATIVES

⇒ The ICCB is currently working with core partners and stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), effective July 1, 2015 .

⇒ Illinois is one of 12 states selected to participate in the College and Career Readiness Standards in Action project Beginning March 2015. This 18 month project, a cooperative activity of Standards Work Inc. and the US Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, will focus on the core instructional actions to effectively implement the CCR standards in adult education classrooms.

⇒ The ICCB continues to expand participation in integrated models of service to create pathways to postsecondary education and employment.

⇒ Computer-based testing for GED® was fully imple-

mented in 2014. The ICCB has convened a taskforce to examine alternative options to award high school equivalency in the state. The committee’s recommendations will be completed during FY15 and presented to the ICCB board.

⇒ The ICCB explored methods to increase distance learning and lab-based teaching to adult education students. Currently six distance learning pilots are underway to further expand on opportunities for adult education students to engage in distance education instruction.

⇒ Adult Education ESL Content Standards will be reviewed during FY15 to ensure correlation and inclusion of College and Career Readiness Standards and Technology Skills as appropriate for all levels of ESL instruction. Relevance of Adult Education ESL standards to the Common Core Curriculum will also be part of this review.