

Illinois Community College Board

FY 2015 ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY



REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A summary of programs and activities during the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

**ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
BOARD**

FY 2015

**ADULT
EDUCATION AND
FAMILY
LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

Dr. Lazaro Lopez
Chair

**Dr. Karen Hunter
Anderson**
Executive Director

Jennifer K. Foster
*Deputy Director for
Adult Education and
Workforce*

Illinois Community
College Board
401 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, Illinois
62701-1711

Voice 217-785-0123
TDD 217-782-5645
FAX 217-524-4981

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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. Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the ICCB will better align services with the core partners to assist students in accessing career pathway instructional and supportive services. The adult education system provides basic skills instruction to prepare individuals to take the high school equivalency exam, improve English language skills as well as prepare them to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow. The development of career pathways is one way to assist students to obtain or improve their employment options and to successfully enroll and complete postsecondary education. Bridge and Integrated Education and Training (IET) Programs are models of instructional delivery designed for many low skilled adults to achieve the level of education needed to ensure success. Through a diverse provider network, we will continue to work collaboratively toward fulfilling the requirements of WIOA, and the goals of the Adult Education Strategic Plan while building on past successes, experiences and best practices.

Purpose of Adult Education

The purpose of the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), 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 to transition into post secondary education, training and employment.

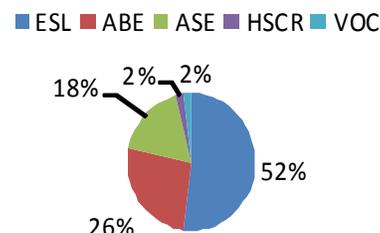
Adult Education Fills a Critical Need in Illinois

- ⇒ Almost 1.2 million of Illinois' 10.1 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are 470,138 people with less than a 9th grade education.⁽¹⁾
- ⇒ 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.⁽¹⁾
- ⇒ More than 331,368 immigrants are currently residing in Illinois. English literacy and civics education provides individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education and employment.⁽¹⁾

FY 2015 Students Served and Units Provided

Instruction Type	Students	Units ²
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)*	42,842	432,129
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	21,844	208,380
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	14,418	134,781
High School Credit (HSCR)	1,869	39,739
Vocational (VOC)	1,273	6,768
TOTAL	82,246	821,797

**Students Served in Adult
Education and Family
Literacy**



¹ U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2015

² One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment

*In the future, ESL will be referred to as ELA (English Language Acquisition)

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

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

The attainment of an Illinois High School Equivalency (IHSE) Certificate is a step towards a students' success.

The IHSE provides individuals with opportunities to further employment, training, and postsecondary education.

The number of individuals earning a GED® in FY15 was 1,249. Since the launch of the 2014 GED® test, there has been a significant decline in the number of individuals taking the test both statewide and nationally. Of

those testing, there was also a drop in the pass rate. However, the ICCB is monitoring this closely and has begun to see an increase in both the number of test takers and the pass rate of those taking the tests. In the next fiscal year, the ICCB will add two exams to provide additional IHSE options.

In Fiscal Year 2015, 62% of Adult Education students were still employed nine months after completing instruction and entering the workforce.

ADULT EDUCATION SUCCESSES

⇒ The Illinois Community College Board's Accelerating Opportunity program blends both basic and career and technical education skills to accelerate the process of adult education students accessing postsecondary education, training and employment. By the end of FY15, 25 colleges have actively participated in this project and developed many pathways including Health Sciences, Manufacturing, and Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (TDL) as well as others. This project is administered through Jobs for the Future with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Joyce Foundation.

⇒ During FY15, 46 programs offered bridge instruction. Bridge programs prepare students for employment in occupations that are available and are in high demand now and/or in the future. This information is based upon labor market information for the local area and the region. Additionally a model bridge curriculum in the area of TDL was finalized and made available for use by programs. To-date there have been approximately 86 pathways developed through the adult education programs.

⇒ Online PD course titled "Standards to Strategies Series" was launched. This series consists of three separate online classes that are available to all Illinois adult education instructors. These include: Introduction to Standards to Strategies, Language Arts Standards to Strategies, and Mathematic Standards to Strategies. The objective of these courses is to enhance instructors knowledge of the standards to better prepare their students for college and career readiness.

⇒ A full-day ESL Summer Institute for administrators called Integrating Workforce Preparation at All ESL Levels was held on June 2015 and was attended by 63 program administrators and coordinators. Participants explored and reviewed national practices of integrating workforce preparation skills and soft skills into the ESL curriculum.

⇒ Evidence Based Reading Instruction (EBRI) continues to provide a way of improving reading comprehension and fluency for the intermediate level learner. Sixty-seven programs have implemented EBRI in the classroom.

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

⇒ English-as-a-Second Language learners constitute the majority (52.1%) of Adult Education instruction. In FY15, there were 63 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 4,657 EL/Civics funded students completing at least 15 attendance hours, 4,243 (91%) met the competency requirement by completing at least two EL/Civics competencies for each fifteen attendance hours earned. 157,595 competencies were earned by students and programs reported a total of 435 students achieving citizenship. These learners become more competent in English literacy and civics education to participate more fully in education, the workforce and to obtain citizenship. In FY15, 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 address a variety of topics such as ESL instruction as well as EL Civics competencies and reporting.

PROVIDER DIVERSITY

Services were offered through a variety of provider types in FY15. These types included the following:

Local Education Agencies	18
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
TOTAL	87

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY RESOURCES

Federal and State Funding in FY 2015

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$ 17,693,106
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 2,768,698
State Basic Appropriation	\$ 16,026,200
State Performance	\$ 10,701,600
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 5,546,200
TOTAL	\$ 52,735,804

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 continuation grant process occurred in FY15. Adult Education and Family Literacy programs were asked to submit continuation proposals to provide services for FY16. 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 implementing the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and making preparations for new activities that will be incorporated into future approval and selection of providers.

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: An interagency group consisting of WIOA core partners including Title I: Illinois Department of Commerce (Commerce), Title II: Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Title III: Illinois Department of Employment Security (Employment Security), and Title IV: Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Vocational Rehabilitation) as well as the WIOA required partners. These entities will continue to work on the Unified Plan and other activities related to local workforce boards and one-stop centers in order to align workforce, education, employment, and vocational rehabilitation services to serve the targeted populations.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

⇒ The ICCB will work with the WIOA core and required partners in the development and implementation of the State Unified Plan and develop policy guidance for local workforce areas and one-stop centers.

⇒ The ICCB will develop both a Workforce Education Strategic Plan as well as a Strategic Plan for Adult Education that is connected to Workforce and Education initiatives in the state.

⇒ The ICCB continues to expand participation in career pathway related services and activities. The ICCB will work with local programs to fully develop pathways connecting students to postsecondary education and employment.

⇒ The Adult Education ESL Content Standards will be revised to reflect the alignment activities reviewed in FY15. The ICCB will fully expand the standards to en-

sure CCRS and Technology Skills are incorporated at all appropriate levels of ESL/ELA instruction.

⇒ In FY16, Illinois will participate in the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education LINCS Professional Project (ESLPro), "Integration of Digital Literacy into English Language Instruction." This project involves technical assistance from a nationally recognized subject matter expert to develop "Digital Champions". Ten pilot sites will be selected and will recruit and train ELA instructors in how to integrate technology into instruction statewide. This project will start in FY16.

⇒ ICCB will research participation of instructors in professional development activities to determine the correlation to student outcomes.

⇒ The ICCB will add two IHSE exam options in 2016. These include the HiSET and TASC exams.