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IDENTIFIERS *Illinois

ABSTRACT

During fiscal year 1995, more than \$29 million was spent on adult education and literacy programming in Illinois, with federal, state, and public aid accounting for 36%, 30%, and 34% respectively of all funds. Of those funds, 77% were spent on direct instruction. The 107 adult education/literacy programs offered in Illinois' 4 planning regions in 1995 provided instruction in the following areas: adult basic education; literacy; and adult secondary education (including General Educational Development test preparation, high school credit courses, vocational training for entry-level employment, life-coping skills, parenting skills, citizenship, English as a second language, and classes to prepare public assistance recipients for employment). The state's 105 administrative agencies for the provision of adult education/literacy provided a total of 830,386 units of instruction to 114,230 students (of whom 6% were Asian, 21% were Black, 37% were Hispanic, and 35% were white) at over 600 sites. Recommendations to improve Illinois' adult education/literacy services included the following: work with state-level stakeholders to craft legislation providing a stable, equitable, performance-based base of funding for providers; foster partnerships to develop technology resources, training/professional development, delivery strategies, and evaluation activities; and make education professionals and policymakers an integral part of strategic planning/implementation efforts. (MN)

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Illinois State Board of Education

Center for Business, Community and Family Partnerships



Illinois Adult Education and Literacy

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ANNUAL REPORT 1995

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: THE CHALLENGE AND THE VISION

VISION STATEMENT

As we approach the 21st century, there is broad-based agreement that the education we provide for our children will determine America's future role in the community of nations, the character of our society, and the quality of our individual lives. Thus, education has become the most important responsibility of our nation and our state, with an imperative for bold new directions and renewed commitments.

To meet the global challenges this responsibility presents, the State of Illinois will provide the leadership necessary to guarantee access to a system of high-quality public education. This system will develop in all students the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that will enable all residents to lead productive and fulfilling lives in a complex and changing society. All students will be provided appropriate and adequate opportunities to learn to:

- communicate with words, numbers, visual images, symbols and sounds;
- think analytically and creatively, and be able to solve problems to meet personal, social and academic needs;
- develop physical and emotional well-being;
- contribute as citizens in local, state, national and global communities;
- work independently and cooperatively in groups;
- understand and appreciate the diversity of our world and the interdependence of its peoples;
- contribute to the economic well-being of society; and
- continue to learn throughout their lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the State Board of Education is to enable all Illinois students to become confident, self-sufficient and productive citizens. To this end, the Board establishes policies that systematically support an everchanging, lifelong learning process. Furthermore, it acts as an advocate, provider, and broker of community, family and state resources and services that ensure the accomplishment of the State's Goals for Learning.

ILLINOIS GOALS

1. Each Illinois public school student will exhibit mastery of the learner outcomes defined in the State Goals for Learning, demonstrate the ability to solve problems and perform tasks requiring higher-order thinking skills, and be prepared to succeed in our society and the workforce. All people of Illinois will be literate, life-long learners who are knowledgeable about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and able to contribute to the economic and social well-being of our society.

2. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which are safe and free of violence and drugs. Such schools will provide an environment which is conducive to learning and promotes respect among all students and staff.

3. All Illinois public school students will be served by an education delivery system which focuses on student outcomes; promotes maximum flexibility for shared decision making at the local level; and has an accountability process which includes rewards, interventions and assistance for schools.

4. All Illinois public school students will have access to schools and classrooms with

highly qualified and effective professionals who ensure that students achieve high levels of learning.

5. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which effectively use technology as a resource to support student learning and improve operational efficiency.

6. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which actively develop the support, involvement and commitment of parents and their community through the establishment of partnerships and/or linkages to ensure the success of all students.

7. Every Illinois public school student will attend a school that is supported by an adequate, equitable, stable and predictable system of finance.

8. Each child in Illinois will receive the support services necessary to enter the public school system ready to learn and progress successfully through school. The public school system will serve as a leader in collaborative efforts among private and public agencies so that comprehensive and coordinated health, human and social services reach children and their families.

Developed by citizens of Illinois through a process supported by the Governor, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Business Roundtable. Adopted as a centerpiece for school improvement efforts, revised February 1996. Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois.

Adult education and literacy programs funded by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) serve adults ages 16 years and older who have less than a high school education and are no longer enrolled in school. These programs provide opportunities to acquire the skills necessary to function more effectively in society and the workplace of the 21st century. Through these programs a student may accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- **Acquire the basic reading, writing, and math skills necessary to obtain or advance in a job;**
- **Meet entrance requirements for vocational training programs;**
- **Pass the General Educational Development (GED) examination, a nationally recognized test for a certificate of high school equivalency;**
- **Attain high-level employment skills;**
- **Obtain the skills needed to become a better parent;**
- **Acquire the skills needed to be a functional, contributing member of society and a wiser consumer;**
- **Learn English as Second Language (ESL) and citizenship skills;**
- **Earn high school credit toward a high school diploma;**
- **Obtain an alternative high school diploma.**

The Illinois Adult Education and Literacy Program operates under provisions of the Illinois School Code and the Federal Adult Education Act.

Services are provided free or at minimal cost to students who qualify under existing laws. The rationale for this policy is that the adults who need basic education the most are the ones who can afford it the least.

In compliance with provisions of the School Code, an area plan must be submitted by an Area Planning Council to ISBE on or before March 1 of each year. Any potential provider of adult education and literacy services (e.g., public school, community college, educational service region, public or private nonprofit organization, community-based organization, correctional education agency, or post-secondary education institution) must be a member of the Area Planning Council in its area.

Across Illinois, these 41 councils plan for the effective development and coordination of educational programs. In many parts of the state, the Area Planning Council is active in the overall coordination of total employment and training programs. If ISBE approves the area plan, all providers listed in the plan may submit an application for funding from ISBE.

The Purpose of
ADULT EDUCATION and LITERACY

State Savings through Public Assistance Reductions

Under an interagency agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Aid, ISBE provides special recruitment, retention and adult education services to students who receive public assistance. These are primarily Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients. During FY95, 15,226 public assistance students attended adult education classes meeting the minimum requirement of hours to be claimed for reimbursement. Of these students, 2,927 (19.2%) increased their earnings enough to result in their monthly cash grant being reduced or cancelled altogether. Illinois realized annual welfare savings estimated at \$20.3 million in direct cash assistance. This amounts to a savings of \$2.06 for every \$1.00 expended on the program. Total savings will increase in future years due to reductions in medical assistance costs to the State. In addition, the increased incomes of these former participants will result in greater tax revenue collection.

State Reimbursement

There are three determinants for reimbursement: (1) the formula mandated in the School Code for the maximum reimbursement per unit of instruction (defined as 15 hours of direct instruction), (2) the approved budget, and (3) actual costs. A district may claim up to its total approved budget if actual expenditures are incurred and student hours are sufficient to generate that amount according to the formula.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 1995, the formula provided the following:

- Adult Basic Education (ABE) (0-8.9 reading level) - \$47.72 per unit of instruction,
- Adult Secondary Education (ASE) (9.0-12.0 reading level) - \$42.95 per unit of instruction (ASE is reimbursed at 90% of ABE rate),
- English as a Second Language (ESL) - \$47.72 per unit of instruction
- Vocational skills training - \$59.65 per unit of instruction.

The formula for community colleges is similar, except that colleges must deduct the state apportionment for ABE/ASE that they receive through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). For FY95 that rate was \$14.77 per unit of instruction.

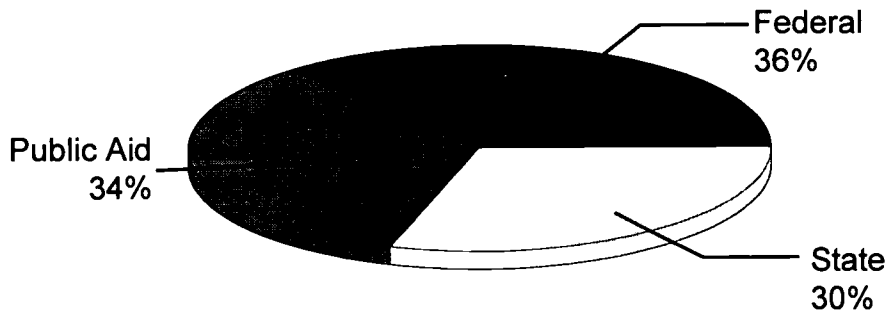
Adult education instructional programs receive funding from ISBE through the application and budget approval process. Each application is evaluated by a team of staff members from ISBE, ICCB, and Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA). Funds are awarded based on the following criteria:

- service to target populations;
- quantifiable need in the service area;
- access to a diversity of services;
- use of effective and diverse instructional techniques;
- provision of supportive services;
- coordination with other funding sources and service providers;

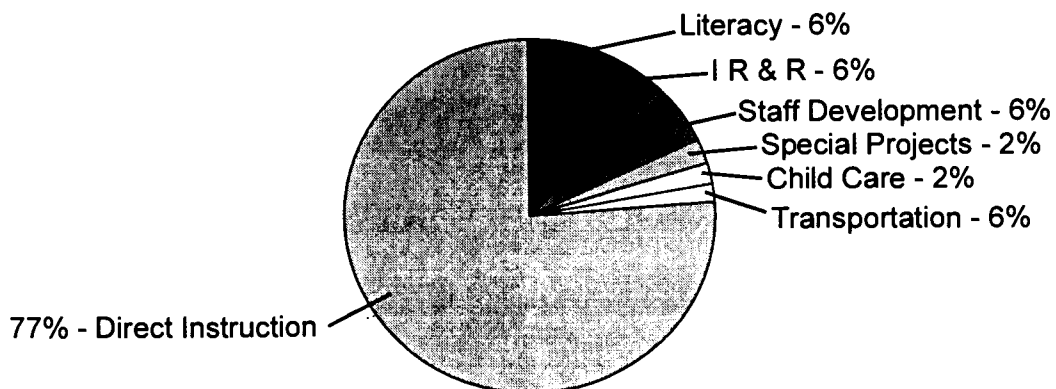
Allocated Funds for FY95, by source

FUND TYPE	\$ AMOUNT
Federal	10,600,000
State GRF	7,027,200
Public Assistance	9,818,830
State Match	1,659,900
TOTAL	\$29,105,930

Fiscal Year 1995 Funding Sources



Fiscal Year 1995 Funding by Purpose (All Funds)



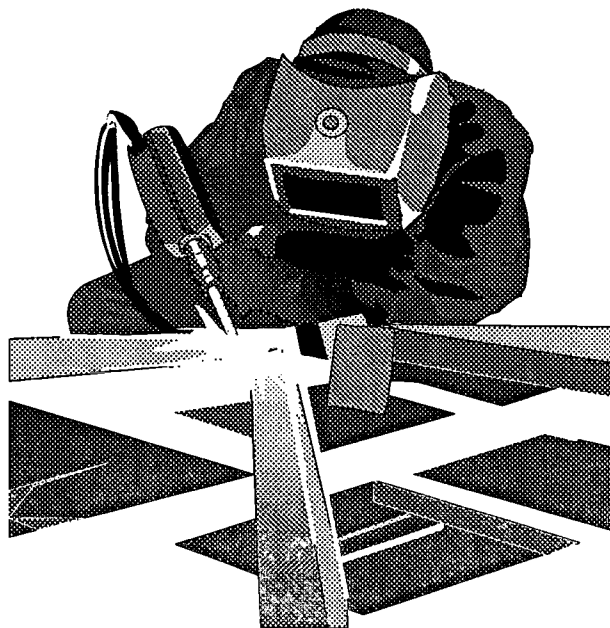
Summary of Needs and Programs

Adult education and literacy programs provide instruction in the following areas: ABE, literacy, and ASE (including GED exam preparation, high school credit courses, and vocational training for entry-level employment). Other areas covered are life-coping skills, parenting skills, citizenship training for immigrants, ESL, job-seeking skills, and classes for public assistance recipients to prepare them for employment.

In January, 1994, the State Board of Education received the results of the Illinois Adult Literacy Survey. Among the report's most startling aspects were data indicating that 44% of the Illinois population above age 16 was functioning at a level too low to operate effectively in today's workplace. The Board responded by passing a resolution directing the State Superintendent of Education to form the State Adult Literacy Committee. The committee was charged with examining the survey's findings and recommending improvements to the ISBE adult education and literacy delivery system. The committee's 28 members represented elementary/secondary education, adult education instructors, private business and industry, public agencies, labor, adult education students, and ISBE board members.

To focus its work, the committee decided to examine the following five critical aspects of the system for educating adults:

1. work-based education
2. curriculum and instruction
3. staff development and program improvement
4. family education
5. technology



Providers by Region

Region 1

Director

Albany Park Community Center
Arlington Heights School District #214
Austin Career Education Center
City Colleges of Chicago
College of Lake County
Evanston Township High School
Harper, William Rainey College #512
Highland Park-Deerfield High School #113
Institute for Latino Progress
Jobs for Youth
Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization
Lake Forest High School #115
LaSalle Street C.Y.C.L.E.
Literacy Chicago
Midwest Women's Center
Moraine Valley Community College #524
Morton College District #201
Morton, J. Sterling High School #201
Mundelein Consolidated High School
Neighborhood Institute
Oakton Community College
Pace Institute/Safer Foundation
Palatine Township High School District #211
Polish Welfare Association
Prairie State College
Prologue Learning Center
Ser /Jobs for Progress
South Area Literacy Council
South Suburban College
Spanish Coalition
Sullivan House
Travelers and Immigrants Aid
Triton College
Warren Township High School

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Mr. Richard V. Chierico
Colette Jolie RSM
Ms. Dorothy McMurtry
Ms. Bo Morton
Ms. Goldie Boldridge-Brown
Dr. Patricia Mulcrone
Mr. Fred Tandy, Acting Director
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Dr. John D. Connelly
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Ms. Margaret Trybus
Ms. Lynn Evans
Ms. Theresa Adams
Ms. Barbara Rizzo
Mr. Ben Greer
Mr. James Henry
Ms. Joanna Borowiec
Ms. Joan Simon
Ms. Nancy Jackson
Ms. Dawn Erickson
Ms. Elaine Krajci
Dr. Gloria Taylor
Ms. Kathleen Petefish
Ms. Meryl Domina
Ms. Aliza Becker
Ms. Emelia Yosick
Mr. Peter Seagard



Providers by Region

Region 2

Director

Aurora East School District
Black Hawk College
College of Dupage
Elgin Community College
Elgin School District U-46
Elgin YWCA
Fox Valley LVA
Highland Community College
Illinois Migrant Council
Illinois Valley Community College
Joliet Junior College
Joliet Township High School
Kishwaukee College
Lyons Township Adult & Continuing Education Center
McHenry County College
Rock Valley College
Rockford Area Literacy Council
Rockford Public Schools
Sauk Valley Community College
Sterling/Rock Falls Adult Education
Waubensee Community College
West Chicago Community High School
World Relief Refugee Services

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Ms. Connie Frazier
Mr. Peter Paris
Mr. Mike Seguin
Mr. Phil Leinbach
Ms. Susan Nespechal
Mr. Donald K. Zabelin
Ms. Marilyn Sweeny

Region 3

Director

Edwardsville Alternative High School District #7
Carl Sandburg College
Danville Area Community College
Decatur School District
Heartland Community College
Illinois Central College
Jersey/Calhoun/Greene Counties ESR
John Wood Community College
Kankakee Community College
Kankakee School District
Lewis and Clark Community College
Lincoln Community High School
Lincoln Land Community College
Macon County ESR
Macoupin County ESR Alternative School
Parkland College
Pass/Adult Education Monmouth-Warren ESR
Peoria Adult Education School District
Peoria County ESR
Quincy Public Schools
Richland Community College
Springfield School District #186
Spoon River College
Urbana School District #116

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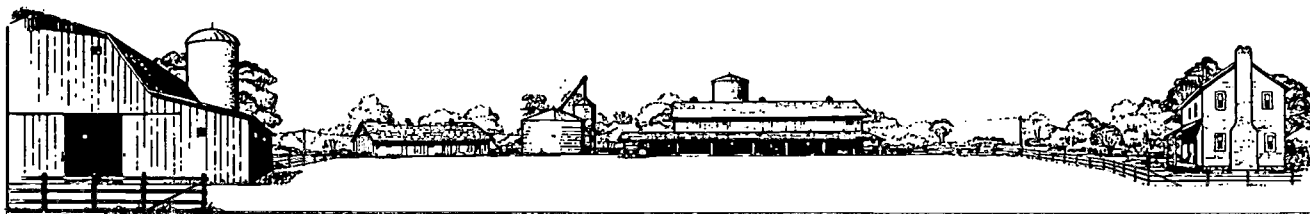
Providers by Region

Region 4

Director

Belleville Area College #522
Carbondale Community High School District #165
Chester Mental Health Center
Choate Mental Health Center & Developmental Center
Collinsville Unit High School #10
Department of Corrections School District
East St. Louis Alternative High School #189
Five County Regional Adult Education Center ESR
Illinois Eastern Community College/Frontier
Jackson/Perry ESR
John A. Logan #530
Kaskaskia College #501
Lake Land College #517
Marion County Public Housing
Mattoon Area Adult Education Center #2
McLean/DeWitt ESR
Monroe/Randolph ESR
Murphysboro Community Unit School District #186
Pana Community Unit School District #8
Rend Lake College #521
Shawnee Community College #531
Southern Illinois University - EDC (Carbondale)
Southeastern Illinois College #533
St. Clair County ESR
State Community College of East St. Louis #600
Venice Community School Unit #3

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Number of Students and Units of Instruction

In FY95, ISBE funded 105 administrative agencies for the provision of adult education and literacy. These providers served 114,230 students at over 600 sites. Total units of instruction for FY95 were 830,386.

	Instruction	Units
	ABE	383,540
	ESL	276,714
	H.S. Credit	43,784
	GED Review	97,348
	Vocational	29,000

Student Demographics

Ethnicity	%*	Sex	16-20	21-24	25-44	45-59	60+	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	M	296	399	1,335	435	330	2,795
	4%	F	322	498	2,817	892	448	4,977
Native American	0%	M	60	39	97	15	5	216
	0%	F	47	24	128	16	5	220
Black	11%	M	3,597	2,567	5,442	715	191	12,512
	10%	F	3,428	1,977	5,277	886	226	11,794
Hispanic	19%	M	5,090	5,626	9,740	1,114	228	21,798
	18%	F	3,831	3,941	10,629	1,654	304	20,359
White	14%	M	4,986	1,979	5,787	1,772	1,145	15,669
	21%	F	5,131	2,962	10,678	3,311	1,808	23,890
Gender Totals	46%	M	14,029	10,610	22,401	4,051	1,899	52,990
	54%	F	12,759	9,402	29,529	6,759	2,791	61,240
Column Totals	100%	All	26,788	20,012	51,930	10,810	4,690	114,230

* Figures greater than 1% are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Issues and Recommendations

FUNDING

Issues: Two interrelated funding issues are of primary importance to the adult education and literacy community: funding adequacy and the equitable distribution of existing funds. It is difficult to achieve an equitable distribution without addressing the adequacy issue.

Recommendations: Develop a partnership with state-level stakeholders to craft legislation that will provide a stable and equitable base of funding for providers based on performance and include incentives to encourage quality service delivery.

ACCESS

Issue: In 1993, community-based organizations (CBOs) were permitted by federal law to apply for federal adult education and literacy funds. Current Illinois statute precludes CBOs from receiving state adult education and literacy funds.

Recommendation: ISBE and interested provider groups should review the existing state statute with the goal of providing all qualified providers with access to state resources to.

TECHNOLOGY

Issue: The number of adults requiring service is too great and existing resources too small to attempt to reach everyone through traditional classroom instruction. Technology offers the potential for reaching new and underserved groups of adults, delivering effective instruction, and streamlining program management and communications systems. There is an urgent need for interactive software that encourages critical thinking and allows for group learning.

Recommendation: Foster partnerships to develop technology resources, training and professional development activities, delivery strategies, and evaluation activities.

SYSTEM BUILDING

Issue: Adult education and literacy must be viewed as critical elements in the Illinois employment and training agenda and the State's Education-to-Careers initiative. Adult educators are knowledgeable about working with "at risk" clients, drawing on the learner's diverse learning styles and needs, providing training in nontraditional environments, and using instructional materials that are relevant to adults entering or re-entering the workforce.

Recommendation: Make education professionals and policy makers an integral part of Illinois' strategic planning and implementation efforts to assure the integrity of adult education and literacy under the proposed federal block grants.



ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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