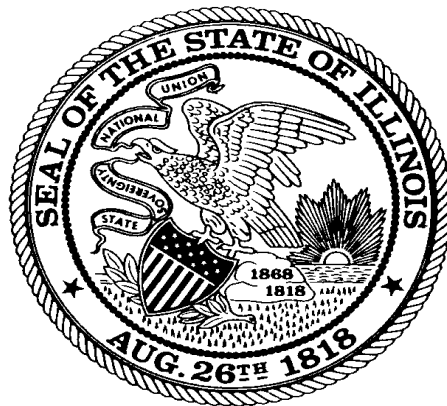


Illinois Community College Board

**FY 2004
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY**



**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*A summary of programs and activities
during the fiscal year July 1, 2003
through June 30, 2004*

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD**

**FY 2004 ADULT EDUCATION
AND FAMILY LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

Guy H. Alongi
Chair

Geoffrey S. Obrzut
President/CEO

Sarah H. Hawker
*Vice President for Workforce
Development and Adult Education*

Jennifer K. Foster
*Senior Director for Adult
Education*

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 Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) continues its commitment to expand Adult Education and Family Literacy programs necessary for individuals and families to have a high quality work and life in Illinois. 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 to function well in an increasingly complex society. The ICCB is dedicated to providing quality instructional services that will enable individuals to increase basic skills and become 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 localities to provide, on a voluntary basis, adult education and literacy services to individuals who have attained 16 years of age, who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law; and to provide instructional and support services designed to:

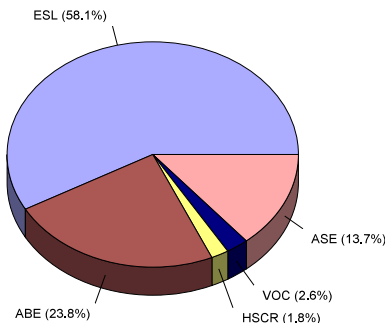
- assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency;
- assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and
- assist adults in the completion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

There is a Critical Need for Adult Education in Illinois

- More than 1.7 million of Illinois' 9.7 million adults have less than 12 grades of formal education. Included in this number are more than 683,000 people with less than a 9th grade education. (*U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2004*)
- Almost 700,000 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, 2004*)
- Around 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, 2004*)

**Students Served and Units of Instruction Provided in
Adult Education for Fiscal Year 2004**

Enrollment in Adult Education and Family Literacy



<u>Instruction Type</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Units</u>
English-as-a-Second Language (ESL)	83,369	784,227
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	34,241	299,846
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)/GED	19,602	163,357
High School Credit (HSCR)	2,604	44,742
Vocational Training (VOC)	3,780	31,359
Total	143,596	1,323,531

Adult Education students maximize their employment opportunities.

- In Fiscal Year 2004, 18,360 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.
- Adult Education and Family Literacy students receiving public assistance gained skills which helped reduce or cancel their public assistance grants that amounted to millions of dollars in welfare savings.

Professional Development in Adult Education supports English-as-a-Second Language and English Language (EL)/Civics Instruction.

- 2,589 ESL and EL/Civics instructors across the state participated in 163 professional development activities to enhance instructional delivery.
- The third annual ESL and EL/Civics Summer Institute was held in August of 2004. More than sixty instructors received professional development on classroom strategies that lead to student success.
- English-as-a-Second Language learners continue to constitute the majority (58.1 percent) of Adult Education instruction.

Illinois Adult Education participates in many National Projects and Initiatives.

- Illinois Adult Education was selected to participate in three national projects: Project STAIT/Tech21, a project designed to examine current uses of instruction technology and the development of a statewide technology plan for Adult Education; Project STAR, a reading reform project for intermediate level learners in Adult Education through evidence-based reading practices; and the ESL Content Standards Working Group, a national group formed to provide technical assistance to states in the development of content standards.
- Adult Education continues to work as part of Project IDEAL, a fourteen state consortium of states utilizing distance education in adult education, to develop strategies to assist instructors who are new to distance education.

- Illinois Adult Education was selected to participate as part of two federal working groups: the United States Department of Education sponsored Adult Education Working Group, a group formed to provide feedback on current and emerging issues in Adult Education; and the Center for Adult English Language Acquisition, a new initiative to provide expertise to states experiencing population growth of English language learners.
- Illinois Adult Education participated in a major study by the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CALL). The project examines the role and potential of community colleges in adult education and family literacy. Results of the study are available at: <http://www.caalusa.org/>

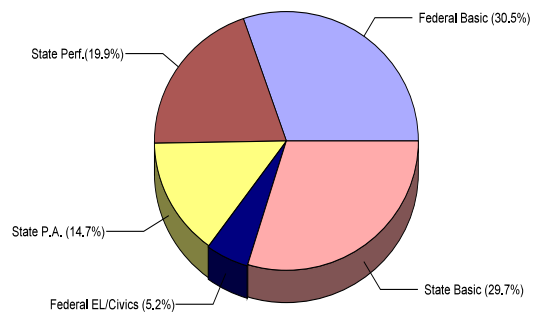
Adult Education Federal Performance Targets were exceeded in Fiscal Year 2004.

- Illinois Adult Education and Family Literacy exceeded it's federal performance targets under the Workforce Investment Act in Fiscal Year 2004. Subject to federal verification, the Adult Education and Family Literacy system along with the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and WIA Title I met their respective performance measures. Attainment of these high standards determine Illinois' eligibility to receive additional federal incentive funds.

Funds by Source in Fiscal Year 2004

Federal Basic Appropriation	\$16,100,501
Federal EL/Civics	\$ 2,760,294
State Basic Appropriation	\$15,643,735
State Performance	\$10,491,800
State Public Assistance (PA)	\$ 7,766,263
Total	\$52,762,593

Funds by Source for Adult Education and Family Literacy



State Reimbursement Rates for Adult Education

Adult Basic Education	\$ 80.17
Adult Secondary Education	\$ 72.15
Vocational Skills Training	\$100.21

A strength of the Adult Education and Family Literacy system is the diversity of its providers.

<u>Provider Type</u>	<u>Count</u>
Community College Districts	39
Public School Districts/ Regional Offices of Education	33
Community-Based Organizations	31
Illinois Department of Corrections	1
Public University	1
Total	105

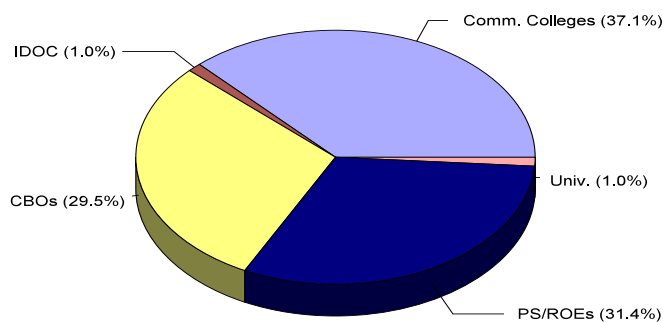
ICCB continues to collaborate with Illinois Adult Education providers and stakeholders on policies and priorities in Adult Education.

- The Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council, composed of all provider types and other stakeholders, continues to advise the ICCB on Adult Education issues. In Fiscal Year 2004, the Council examined important topics in Adult Education including: professional standards, support services, and the development of a new data collection system.
- The Adult Education Funding Task Force developed final recommendations that were accepted by the Illinois Community College Board. The recommendations restructure the Adult Education funding method to promote the stability and diversity of Adult Education programs while insuring access to services for students statewide.

The support of innovative instructional strategies and technology continues in Adult Education.

- ICCB provides local grants to develop best practices in Adult Education. Fiscal Year 2004 grants supported implementation of the GED Illinois Online, development of a community based curriculum for ESL students and a health literacy curriculum, and a study on support services and retention. The result of these leadership initiatives are distributed to providers statewide.
- Through GED Illinois Online, 2,577 students benefitted from the flexibility of online instruction in Fiscal Year 2004. Illinois Adult Education programs use this technology to offer entire online GED courses or to supplement classroom instruction. Information regarding GED Illinois Online is available at: <http://www.gedillinois.org>

Adult Education and Family Literacy Providers



Adult Education Provider Approval

Proposals for funding are reviewed by staff of the Illinois Community College Board and state entities familiar with Adult Education and Family Literacy programming. The review criteria include the quality of the proposed programs and services in the following areas:

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

Future Initiatives in Adult Education

- Implement the new adult education funding methodology.
- Continue to seek and expand fiscal resources to meet the need for Adult Education.
- Continue development of a web-based data collection system that will strengthen the quality, accuracy, and reliability of data.
- Examine the use of evidence-based practices in the classroom as a method for improving instruction and outcomes for students.
- Further develop content standards in Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, and English-as-a-Second Language to enhance consistent instruction within the adult education classroom.
- Continue to increase accountability among all adult education programs through enhancements to the program monitoring process and development of a new evaluation component.
- Implement enhanced requirements pertaining to instructor qualifications and professional development.