



FY 2022 ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY



REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE BOARD
FY2022
ADULT EDUCATION
AND LITERACY
ANNUAL REPORT**

Dr. Lazaro Lopez
Chair

Dr. Brian Durham
Executive Director

Jennifer K. Foster
*Deputy Executive
Director*

Whitney Thompson
*Deputy Director for
Workforce Education*

**Dr. Kathy Olesen-
Tracey**
*Senior Director for
Adult Education and
Literacy*

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

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

This report is also
available as a PDF file
on the ICCB website:

www.iccb.org

Printed by the Authority
of the State of Illinois
2/27/2020–200c.

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 Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is the state coordinating agency for the Illinois Community College System and administers Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). With an emphasis on expanding and scaling comprehensive career pathways, the Illinois Adult Education system is proactively responding to a future of work that demands robust skill enhancement for its participants in the new economy.



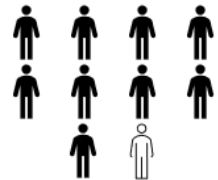
**Illinois
Adult
Education**
YOUR PATH. YOUR FUTURE.

Purpose of Adult Education

The purpose of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act under WIOA Title II is:

- To assist adults to become literate and to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.
- To assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills needed to become full partners in the educational development of their children and that lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their families.
- To assist adults in attaining a secondary school diploma and in the transition to post-secondary education and training, through career pathways.
- To assist immigrants and other individuals who are English language learners in improving their reading, writing, speaking and comprehension skills in English, mathematical skills, and acquiring an understanding of the American system of government, individual freedom and the responsibilities of citizenship.

Over **1 million** of 10.3 million Illinoisans over the age of 16 **are considered at risk**. Included in this number are over **400,000** individuals over age 16 with **less than a 9th grade education and over 500,000 who have basic skills above a 9th grade level but lack a high school diploma.**⁽¹⁾



Over **2.7 million Illinois residents speak a language other than English** as the primary language in their households.⁽¹⁾

Over **301,103 of these individuals** are over 16 and **are identified as adult populations at risk.**⁽¹⁾ English literacy and civics education provide individuals with a pathway to citizenship, improved education, and employment.⁽¹⁾



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Title II—Adult Education Activities

The ICCB is the state-level entity responsible for Title II, a member of the state of Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB), and is represented on all state-level major Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act workgroups and committees.













Title-II-funded providers fulfill membership responsibilities on each Local Workforce Innovation Board (LWIB) by providing Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, High School Credit Recovery, English as a Second Language, and Vocational activities and services outlined in the Unified State Plan as well as the goals and strategies in the Expanding Career Pathway Opportunities in Adult Education Strategic Plan. The ICCB continues to work with other partners around service integration in order to reduce duplication and to ensure effective collaboration around the expansion and scaling of comprehensive career pathways in each local area.

¹ U.S. Census, Index of Need, 2022

The continuum of key AELA Services include:

- Adult Basic Education for learners at the most basic literacy levels.
- Adult Secondary Education to prepare learners for their High School Equivalency Certificate.
- English as a Second Language instruction.
- Integrated Education and Literacy / Civics instruction for English Language Learners.
- Bridge Programming for ABE learners to provide work-based contextualized instruction.
- College and career readiness instruction to prepare learners to transition to post-secondary education or training.
- Employability Skills instruction embedded in all elements of Adult Education and Literacy instruction.
- Integrated Education and Training [through the ICCB's Integrated Career & Academic Preparation System (ICAPS)] that blends ASE instruction and workforce training, leading to an industry recognized credential.

Adult Education and Literacy Statewide Outreach Campaign

 <p>Logos</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Brand Guidelines</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Billboard Artwork</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>
 <p>Bus Shelter And Mall Signs</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Posters</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Print Ads</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>
 <p>Radio Script</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Digital Ads and Website Banners</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Flyer Template</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>
 <p>Social Media Posts</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Press Release Template</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	 <p>Media Fact Sheet</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>

The Illinois Community College Board launched a year-long outreach campaign to increase student enrollment and provide technical assistance to all AELFA funded programs as they adapt to new and digital outreach strategies.

The outreach campaign, in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Ukrainian, and Polish focused on digital strategies, guiding interested learners to a custom website where the learner could self-select an adult education program or speak to an individual and be guided to a program in their area.

At the end of FY22, the campaign yielded the following results:

- 2,336,35 impressions, the number of times ads were shown in someone's feed.
- 46,777 clicks on ads, the number of clicks on ads
- 18,218 Unique website views

In addition to leading the outreach campaign, the ICCB developed a toolkit for programs. Additionally, monthly technical assistance webinars were held. Topics included:

- Raising Awareness and Increasing Enrollments; Leveraging the Statewide Adult Education Outreach Campaign.
- Increasing Enrollments strategically: Best Practices in Converting Leads to Enrollment
- Measuring Campaign Results: What You Should Know About Digital Advertising and Campaign KPIs
- Campaign Toolkit Part 1: Deploying Local Lead Generation Ads
- PR & Advocacy: Engaging Key Stakeholder Groups to Advance Your Mission
- Campaign Toolkit Part 2: Grassroots Efforts to Recruit Adult Learners

This campaign and technical assistance ran parallel to ongoing student retention supports and professional development designed to improve student outcomes.

Students served in Adult Education and Literacy Programming in FY2022

Programming	Students	Units Of Instruction ²
Adult Basic Education	10,525	110,128.14
Adult Secondary Education	5,629	54,591.17
English Language Acquisition	24,057	231,727.15
High School Credit Recovery	1,628	30,008.96
Vocational Skills	592	4,713.76
TOTAL	42,431	431,169.16

Adult Education enrollment increased by almost 35% in fiscal year 2022, recovering from challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. English Language Acquisition program enrollment grew by almost 60% further demonstrating the demographic shift in the State.

² One unit of instruction equals 15 hours of enrollment

Workforce Preparation

The ICCB continues to lead and support the development of work-based educational programs for the most vulnerable Illinois residents. Using key labor and market trends, adult education programs expand Illinois' talent pipeline and provide adult learners with opportunities to improve their academic, English language, and workplace skills. The ever-changing employer and workforce scenario provides the rationale for the ICCB to develop and expand Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Bridge programs that accelerate and connect adult literacy instruction with workforce training leading to industry-recognized and/or postsecondary credentials and, in turn, meaningful employment. Bridge Programs prepare adults with limited academic or limited English skills to explore various career opportunities in focused areas while continuing to build academic and English skills. In FY22, 14 additional bridge programs were approved bringing the overall number up to 186 approved bridge programs. The three (3) areas of largest growth were in Health Science, Information Technology, and Manufacturing, which reflect the increased job demands across the State.

Integrated Education and Training provide students the opportunity to dually enroll in adult education instruction and either credit or industry recognized training using an integrated model, supplemented by support courses, and comprehensive student support services. Table 3 illustrates the continued growth of IET programs throughout the state.

Career Pathway	No. Programs FY21	No. Programs FY22
Architecture and Construction	5	5
Business Management and Administration	4	5
Education and Training	3	4
Health Science	39	48
Hospitality and Tourism	1	3
Information Technology	12	16
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	1	1
Manufacturing	25	34
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	9	13
TOTAL	99	126

The number of IET programs increased in part by significant investment and programmatic support by ICCB and its professional development partners.

In Fiscal Year 2022, there was an increase in Workplace Literacy programs delivered by adult education providers in partnership with local employers. Programs such as South Suburban College, Regional Office #33 (Henderson, Knox, Mercer, and Warren Counties), Waubensee Community College, and Mundelein Consolidated High School District #120 all offered workplace literacy programs.

A Workplace Literacy Program is defined as an adult education program provided by an AEL-funded provider in conjunction with a participating employer to provide adult education learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain or retain employment, qualify for further training, and/or advance in their industry.

The Mundelein Consolidated High School District #120 partnered with [Ruprecht Company](#) to develop a work-based English as a Second Language program. Employees participated in English Language instruction twice a week after working their full shift. Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) attended a recognition to award certificates of completion to the participating students. Having witnessed the successes of the current students and experiencing first-hand English being used by many of these beginning literacy students, Ruprecht Company has asked to begin two new classes for employees.



Provider Diversity and Program Approval

FY22 was the first year of implementation in a three-year Adult Education and Family Literacy competitive grant cycle. To be selected for funding, applicants were required to demonstrate past effectiveness in providing adult education instruction with the goal of transitioning adult learners to postsecondary education, training, and into employment. The initial applicants documented need of the eligible applicant to serve individuals in the community who are most in need of literacy services and career pathway services, including individuals who have low literacy skills (i.e., literacy statistics, regional and local needs, etc.).

Providers include:

- Community-Based Organizations (17)
- Community Colleges (38)
- Corrections and Reentry-Focused Programs (3)
- Faith-based Organizations (3)
- Four-Year Colleges or Universities (1)
- Illinois Department of Corrections System (1)
- Local Education Agencies (8)

Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE)

WIOA authorized and codified the Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Program in 2014. In an IELCE Program, literacy, English language acquisition, and civics education must be delivered in combination with integrated education and training activities, accommodating services for professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries. In FY22, there were 29 IELCE-funded programs.

Illinois' Investment in Adult Education

Adult Education and Literacy Resources Federal and State Funding in FY2022

Federal Basic	\$ 16,726,346
Federal IEL/Civics	\$ 2,673,480
State Basic	\$22,650,999
State Performance	\$ 10,899,590
TOTAL	\$ 52,950,415

ICCB Executive Leadership and Adult Education activity participated in the interagency group consisting of State Workforce Innovation Board and WIOA core partners including the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Commerce), the Illinois Department of Employment Security (Employment Security), and the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Vocational Rehabilitation). The interagency group continues to meet regularly to ensure strategic implementation of the delivery of integrated services through comprehensive One-Stop Centers in each economic development region.

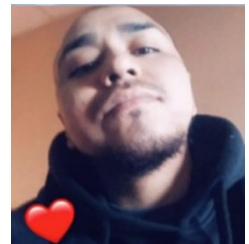
The ICCB led all Title II initiatives, serving adult education students working toward their high school credentials, expanding Bridge and ICAPS programming, providing English Language Acquisition and Civics instruction, Integrated English Language and Civics Education, and provided basic education services for justice-involved individuals in the Illinois Department of Corrections, county jails, and transitional housing programs. FY22 focused on the following:

- *Future of work* – The implementation of ICAPS and Bridge programs address the changing nature of work, requiring industry-recognized credentials and technology proficiency.
- *Comprehensive career pathways and regional partnerships* – Adult education programs develop comprehensive regional plans annually to ensure alignment between services.
- *College and career readiness* – College and career readiness is a robust area where Illinois Adult Education has the opportunity to embed elements that can help individuals make better decisions about education, training, and job opportunities, all leading to stronger outcomes for students.

FY2022 Student Success

Students across the state realized their personal goals. Adult education programs were equipped with the tools and resources to provide instruction and wrap around support services that enabled learners to transition from adult education to successful and sustainable employment.

Christian, a student in our Centro Romero's GED Breaking Ground Program was awarded the "Grow with Google" scholarship. Supported by the Commission on Adult Basic Education, this national awarded 200 scholarships to adult learners in their national network to participate in the Google Career Certificates program. This flexible online training was designed to put learners on the fast track to jobs in in-demand, high-growth fields.



Milne attended Howard Area Community Center's English Language program. Having no literacy education in her home country of Afghanistan, Milne started in the basic English class. Six years later, Milne has achieved a long-time goal of obtaining a job as a classroom assistant and parent leader at her daughter's elementary school.

Amber earned her High School Equivalency after attending prep courses at Joliet Junior College. Upon completion, she earned multiple work promotions.



Recommendations and Future Initiatives

The ICCB will:

- Engage in research to determine the efficacy of Bridge programming,
- Implement ongoing professional development focusing on data to evaluate program quality leading to continuous improvement,
- Focus on pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship trainings to provide innovative methods of educating adult learners and creating a talent pipeline to in-demand careers.
- Establish supports, technical assistance, and policy that facilitate stronger transitions between Adult Education and postsecondary education and workforce training.
- Partner with community colleges to expand the use of the Ability-to-Benefit provision, which gives students, without a high school diploma, the opportunity to enroll in postsecondary programs with financial aid support, and
- Strengthen IELCE programs and the integration of Civics Education, workforce preparation, and occupation training that leads to employment.