

Illinois Community College Board

Illinois Vision for Adult Education and Family Literacy

This document consolidates the *Adult Education and Literacy Ten Year Vision and Three Year Goals*, the *Learn to Earn: Taking Illinois into the 21st Century with New Literacy Policy*, and the *Proposed Work Plan for Implementing the Literacy Action Agenda*.

VISION A. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to assist the field, and the State to: provide an Adult Education and Family Literacy educational system with a strong, efficient delivery system that is responsive to the multiplicity of learning needs in the State of Illinois.*

Goal 1. Develop a comprehensive, unified, State Adult Education and Family Literacy plan.

Goal 2. Adopt a common definition of literacy.

Goal 3. Collaborate among partners.

Objective: to assure quality, coordination, and awareness of current and future partners with a focus on activities, services, and equal access to funding.

Objective: to impact systemic funding coordination at the State policy level.

Activity: 1. Expand state agency collaboration and cooperation.

Activity: 2. Integrate agency reporting

Activity: 3. Use technology for reporting purposes.

Goal 4. Educate all persons to the limit of their ability.

VISION B. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to move the field and the State forward to: provide outcomes-oriented curricula that offer a variety of methods to meet the diverse and changing student needs.*

Goal 1. Adopt student standards/benchmarks.

Objective: to expand the existing State of Illinois learning standards/benchmarks to include standards and benchmarks for the adult learner.

Goal 2. Develop adult education competencies.

Objective: to develop well-defined competencies within the identified focus areas of basic literacy, pre-GED, GED/high school diploma, vocational, job skills/workforce preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL), life skills, and family literacy.

Goal 3. Expand assessment outcomes options.

Objective: to create a comprehensive system of multiple assessments which include 1) placement levels of ABE, GED, ESL, 2) diagnosis of special learning needs, 3) academic progress that deals with achievement, 4) support service needs, 5) outcomes that cover support services.

Goal 4. Develop curriculum outcomes that incorporate "holistic" education.

Objective: to base education on learner centered needs and goals particularly as they contribute to the development of the whole learner/family.

Goal 5. Increase access to education and employability services.

Objective: to have adequate and immediate access to support services.

Activity: 1. Expand support services including transportation system, childcare and advisement/counseling.

Objective: to establish in the minds of administrators, students, and teachers, that computer use is a valid teaching tool for student success.

Objective: to assist adult educators in understanding how to plan for technological

acquisitions and to upgrade available equipment to meet administrative and teaching goals.

Objective: to integrate computer use into the adult education and family literacy curricula as both a tool and a skill.

Objective: to expand the use of web technology.

VISION C. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to move the field and the State forward to: provide stable funding that assures adequate and flexible resources to promote and enable program growth and innovation for all adult education and family literacy students.*

Goal 1. Provide sufficient funding to develop high quality and effective adult education and family literacy programs.

Goal 2. Establish adequate, stable, and flexible funding.

Objective: to develop new and stable funding.

Objective: to eliminate the uncertainties of fiscal planning.

Objective: to build in system flexibility which responds to demand.

Objective: to confirm funding in March to assure retention

Goal 3. Simplify the funding process.

Objective: to allow programs more freedom to use funds for their local needs.

Objective: to eliminate the annual RFP process for established providers.

Goal 4. Coordinate funding at the state level.

Objective: to create a mechanism by which state agencies can coordinate funds.

Objective: to develop a state level plan for synchronized funding.

VISION D. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to move the field and the State forward to: provide staff development that ensures professionally competent and committed employees.*

Goal 1. Increase the number of qualified full-time staff.

Objective: to phase in career ladder opportunities

Objective: to increase credentialing options

Goal 2. Improve the quality of adult education and family literacy delivery through continuous staff development activities.

Objective: to design a continuous staff development system driven by individual professional development plans

Objective: to train agency and program staff on interpretation and analysis of data as it applies to continuous improvement

Objective: to design a continuous improvement system that is available and useful across agencies and at the local program level

VISION E. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to move the field and the State forward to: participate in partnerships that support full and authentic relationships with business, industry, and community agencies.*

Goal 1. Coordinate local service delivery plans based upon the unified plan.

Objective: provide additional resources to expand and strengthen partnerships

Goal 2. Create a mechanism by which state agencies can coordinate funds.

Objective: initiate legislative discussions that will spur business, workforce preparation, social services, and community collaboration with adult education

Goal 3. Increase business, industry, and community involvement in adult education.

Objective: to demonstrate worker outcomes resulting in increased private sector partnerships.

VISION F. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to move the field and the State forward to: increase accessibility through technology and workplace and community locations.*

Goal 1. Utilize technologies for instruction and support services.

Goal 2. Increase access to education and employability services.

VISION G. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to move the field and the State forward to: an advocacy plan that promotes a common awareness and acceptance of the need for adult education.*

Goal 1. Raise community consciousness about Adult Education and Family Literacy.

Objective: to build a community consciousness about Adult Education and Family Literacy using partners and leading to program productivity, accountability, and prosperity

Objective: develop a statewide marketing plan

Objective: launch a comprehensive public awareness program to build agency, public, and legislative support and to recruit students

Objective: establish communication mechanisms at policy and provider level

Goal 2. Represent Adult Education and Family Literacy as an integral part of the educational continuum.

Goal 3. Implement a seamless educational process.

VISION H. *By the year 2008, the vision of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council is to move the field and the State forward to: an accountability/ program review process that ensures that programs are of high and continuing quality, the process is also a critical means of being accountable to students and others.*

Goal 1. Provide strong evidence that recommendations for quality improvements for programs are linked directly to the findings of a rigorous and outcomes oriented program review process.

Objective: develop a program review process

Goal 2. Provide a continuous accountability loop by including information regarding the outcomes(s) of recommendations from the previous review of each program.