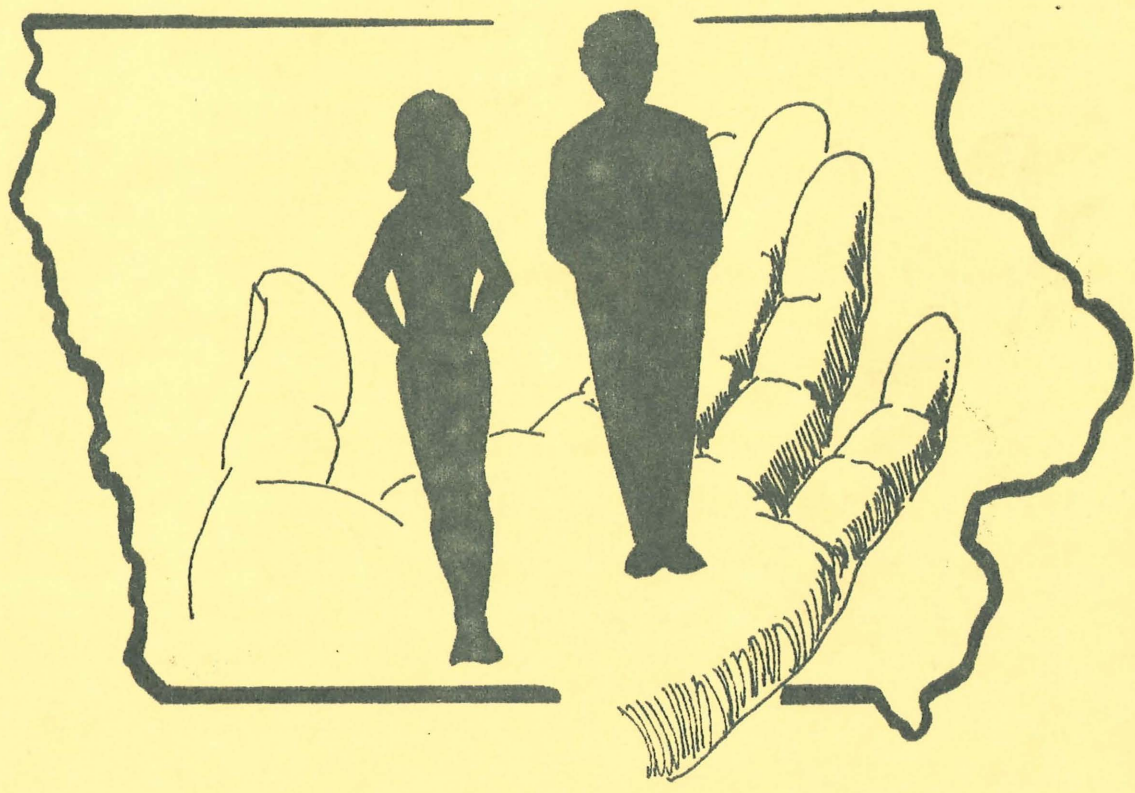


CONTINUING EDUCATION HOLDS OUR FUTURE



**adult basic
education**

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Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The Congress of the United States enacted Public Law 88-452, 88th Congress, No. 2642, August 20, 1964. Better known as "The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964", it covers many areas. We are concerned here with Title II, Part B, Adult Basic Education Program. The declaration of purpose is stated in Section 212 of the Act:

"It is the purpose of this part to initiate programs of instruction for individuals who have attained age 18 and whose inability to read and write the English language constitutes a substantial impairment of their ability to secure or retain employment commensurate with their real ability, so as to help eliminate such inability and raise the level of education of such individuals with a view to making them less likely to become dependent upon others, improving their ability to benefit from occupational training and otherwise increase their opportunities for more productive and profitable employment, and make them better able to meet their adult responsibilities."

Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act in August of 1964, but funds were not appropriated until later that year. Those funds, upon being made available to the Office of Economic Opportunity, were then contracted to the U. S. Office of Education and made available to each state in accordance to the number of undereducated adults in each state on the basis of the 1960 census.

The Iowa Department of Public Instruction then developed a state plan for the operation of adult basic education programs. For reference write The Department of Public Instruction for a copy of the "State Plan for Title II, Part B", P.L. 88-452 of Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

How does Iowa stand? What are the needs in Iowa? A statistical report derived from the 1960 census compiled by the Department of Public Instruction in January 1966 reveals there are 1,541,060 persons 25 years of age and over in Iowa. Of these 1,541,060 there are 209,642 who have completed less than eight years of school or 13.6 per cent of those persons over 25 years of age. There are 7,745 persons possessing no formal schooling, 38,639 who have one-four years of schooling, 70,909 with four-six years of schooling, and 92,349 with seven years of education, of those persons 25 years of age and older in Iowa.

CRITERIA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The goals and objectives of Adult Basic Education are as follows:

- A. To improve educational achievement to a level where employment commensurate with the living wage may be secured.
- B. To improve educational achievement to a level where the individual may profit from further vocational or technical education.

- C. Make high school completion a realistic possibility.
- D. Help adults become more effective, responsible, happier and more fulfilled human beings possessing pride, self esteem, and dignity.
- E. Provide a stimulus for cultural change and social improvement.

What are the qualifications for entering adult basic education programs?

The program is designed for those persons over 18 years of age who possess less than 9th grade achievement. There is a distinction here between grades completed in school and achievement. Persons can take advantage of Adult Basic Education classes if they have less than 9th grade achievement regardless of how many years of formal schooling they may possess.

Persons have participated in Adult Basic Education classes ranging in age from 18 to 70 years of age. However, we prefer that the younger adult in need of basic education would be recruited to participate in the program because of the number of years this individual has remaining to utilize this new acquired achievement.

Adult Basic Education Programs are operated through local educational agencies. To receive funds for the operation of basic education programs the local school districts make application to the Department of Public Instruction, Adult Education Section, whereupon the project proposal is submitted and subsequently approved by the Department.

Funding: Funds are on a 90 per cent Federal with a 10 per cent Local matching basis. The local participation in Adult Basic Education can be personnel services from the local educational agency, they can not be contributions in kind of facilities. The program must be made available to all persons regardless of color, creed, nationality, or religion.

Cost to students: Classes are made available to the student without charge and all educational materials, such as texts, references, educational materials and supplies are furnished for the student.

It is the philosophy in operating the Adult Basic Education program to take the program to the student, because in working with the undereducated and the lower income adult we believe it is necessary to take the program into the area where the student lives. Therefore, the facilities used for Adult Basic Education classes have been public school facilities including grade schools, junior high, high school, and community college building. In addition other buildings, community houses, churches, Salvation Army centers, libraries, YMCA, YWCA, and other community public facilities that can be made available to the program without charge or cost to the program have been utilized.

Classes have been offered usually in two-hour sessions and twice per week. Classes are operated on an evening and daytime basis with the majority of classes being offered in the evening. However, whether the person participating in Adult Basic Education is an ADC mother or an unemployed person, classes have been arranged for these students on a daytime basis. It again is a belief of the program that every effort should be made to meet the needs of the adult; therefore the class is offered at a time and a place convenient to the adult.

Class size: The recommended class size has been 8-10 students per teacher, or a teacher-pupil ratio of approximately 1-10. The undereducated adult needs much more personal attention than the normal student population taught in our public schools; therefore, the class size must be kept quite small to meet these individual needs.

The classroom arrangement is somewhat different for the adult student. It is preferred that we use table and chairs with the usual arrangement rather similar to the one-room school. The adult participating in this program may have achievement ranging from 0 to the 8th grade level, therefore, justifying the different classroom arrangement and method of instruction. Instruction is very similar to the one-room school in that it becomes a kind of individual tutoring, taking them from the level they presently possess and helping them improve their achievement toward the 8th grade achievement level.

Educational materials developed for undereducated adults are becoming reasonably plentiful on the market. A bibliography has been prepared by the Department of Public Instruction adult education staff and is available upon request. These materials are written with an adult approach and interest but on the various achievement levels ranging from alphabet writing and up through the 8th grade achievement level.

The curriculum in Adult Basic Education consists mainly of two areas, (1) the communication arts, (2) computational skills. However, it is not limited to these two areas alone. Any course offered below the 9th grade in our public schools could be offered to the undereducated adult. This could be history, government, or social studies with the exception of vocational programs.

Communication skills and the computational skills, however, are most often stressed. We try to make the instruction meaningful and realistic as possible to meet the undereducated adult needs. In the communications arts we are concerned not only with the reading and writing but the speaking and listening aspects of the communications. We try to make each class session a valuable learning situation. In the computational skills area we are concerned with addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, and fractions rather than higher mathematics.

Classes are designed to be 100 to 150 hours in length for each level of instruction. They are designed as Level 1, first grade through third grade; Level 2, fourth grade through sixth grade; Level 3, seventh and eighth grades.

Teacher selection has been based on their interest, desire, and motivation to teach the undereducated adult. We feel that the teacher must possess empathy and compassion for the impoverished and low-achieving adult. The educational background required of an adult basic education teacher may vary but it is preferred that the individual possess a four-year degree and that the person would possess prior teaching experience preferably in the elementary grades. Certification by the Department of Public Instruction is desirable but not required.

Many teachers that were recruited during the past year's operation have been teachers who taught with two and three years academic training and have been in the elementary education field. Also recruited were those who earlier dropped out of teaching to become wives and homemakers and are now willing

to come back into the educational field as a part-time teacher. Some school districts are using their regular certified day school teachers on a part-time evening basis.

Recruitment of students is accomplished by the teacher-coordinator of Adult Basic Education making contact with many community organizations and groups. These groups are extremely helpful in recruitment or in referring names of the undereducated adult for future contact. The following is a partial list of those organizations and groups who are most helpful.

Contact should be made with the following organizations, groups, or clubs. Community Action Program, public school personnel, county social welfare departments, ministers and church groups, Iowa Employment Security Commission, NAACP, YWCA, YMCA, labor organizations, management groups, public libraries, United Community Services, police, soldier's relief, Salvation Army, drivers license examiners, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Jaycees, American Legion, VFW, Masonic Lodge, settlement houses, hospitals, County Extension Service, Armed Forces examiners, public nurses, CORE, high school counselors, industrial firms, courts, social workers, and Vet's Hospital.

Students are screened only on the basis of an oral reading test and simple mathematics test to determine their reading and mathematics achievement as a basis to qualify for the program.

Inservice training for teachers and teacher-coordinators is provided by the Department of Public Instruction staff in the local community. State wide inservice training is provided annually. The Department of Public Instruction is available to visit and consult with any school about Adult Basic Education.

There are a minimum of records and reports required so administrative costs are kept at a minimum allowing the majority of funds to be used for instructional cost and educational supplies.

During the first full year of operation, July 1, 1965 through June 30, 1966 approximately 3,000 adults participated in Adult Basic Education classes.

There are presently 28 communities offering Adult Basic Education classes. Most programs are operated cooperatively through the Merged Area School Districts and the local school districts.

Albia Community Schools
Anamosa - Men's Reformatory
Cedar Rapids - Area X Community College
Cedar Rapids Community Schools
Centerville Community Schools
Council Bluffs Community Schools
Davenport Community Schools
Des Moines Community Schools
Dubuque Community Schools
Eldora - Iowa Training School for Boys
Fort Dodge - Area V Community College
Fort Madison - Iowa State Penitentiary
Glenwood State School and Hospital
Independence - Mental Health Institute
Iowa City Community Schools
Jefferson Community Schools

Keokuk Community Schools
Marshalltown Community Schools
Mason City - North Iowa Area
Community College
Muscatine Community Schools
Ottumwa - Iowa Tech
Rockwell City - Women's Reformatory
South East Polk (Runnels) Community
Schools
Sioux City Public Schools
Waterloo - Hawkeye Institute of
Technology
Washington County Schools
West Des Moines Community Schools
Woodward State School and Hospital

