

**Iowa's Community College Basic Literacy
Skills Credential Program**



ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Program Year 2006

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

**IOWA'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BASIC LITERACY SKILLS
CREDENTIAL PROGRAM**

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**Iowa Department of Education
Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation**

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IOWA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE BASED BASIC SKILLS LITERACY CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

Introduction and Overview

The purpose of this report is to document the results of Iowa's community college based basic literacy skills credential program for Program Year 2006 (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006). The credentialing program is administered through Iowa's community colleges and consists of four (4) components: (1) basic literacy skills certification, (2) Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma, (3) community college based adult high school diploma, and (4) traditional high school diploma. A brief description of each component is presented in the following sections.

Basic Skills Certification Program

The major purpose of Iowa's Basic Skills Certification program is to award certificates for successful attainment of basic literacy skills competencies below the General Educational Development (GED) level. The program issues a total of fifteen (15) basic literacy certificates in the areas of reading, mathematics, writing and listening at four (4) certification levels based on the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS). Iowa's Basic Literacy Skills Certification program was initiated in Program Year 1998 with the reading and mathematics components. The writing component was initiated during Program Year 2002. The listening component was initiated during Program Year 2004. The listening component provides an opportunity for English Literacy adult learners to qualify for a basic skills certificate. The certification program is authorized under *281 Iowa Administrative Code section 21.2(10)(e)* and *20 U.S.C. section 9212(b)(2)(B)* [*Section 212(b)(2)(B) of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*]. Exhibit 1 delineates the descriptors for each subject area and CASAS level.

Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma

The Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma is awarded to adults who successfully complete the General Educational Development (GED) test battery. The purpose of the GED testing program is to provide a second chance opportunity for those individuals who did not complete the requirements for a traditional high school diploma. The Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma program was initiated in 1966 under *Iowa Code, Chapter 259A* and *281 IAC Chapter 32*.

Adult High School Diploma Program

The Adult High School Diploma is awarded to adults who successfully complete a prescribed program of instruction at one of Iowa's community colleges. The diploma is community college based and is issued by the community college. This credential is viewed as an alternative to the GED based Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma. The program is authorized under *260C.1(4)* and *281 Iowa Administrative Code section 21.4(3)* and *20 U.S.C. section 9212(b)(2)(A)(iii)* [*Section 212(b)(2)(A)(iii) of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*]. The program was initiated in 1966.

Traditional High School Diploma

The traditional high school diploma, in the context of the Iowa community college based basic literacy skills credential program, is awarded to in-school youth by a local school district as a direct result of a cooperative agreement between the local school district and the community college. *Iowa Code sections 260C.1(5)(6)* and *260C.5(9)* and *281 Iowa Administrative Code section 21.2(8)(b)* grants the authority for community colleges and local school districts to permit students attending high school to participate in vocational-technical programs and advanced college placement courses and obtain credit for such participation for application toward the completion of a high school diploma issued by the local school district.

