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ADULT

EDUCATION

IN

IOWA'S AREA SCHOOLS,

1971

Adult Education in Iowa's Area Schools has witnessed a phenomenal growth during the past four years that the Area Schools have been in existence. During this current school year, in excess of 100,000 Iowans will take advantage of Adult Education programs throughout the state. Adult Education is assuming an ever increasing role in importance, not only in Iowa, but in all of the United States. It is estimated that in the near future, one out of every four American adults will be enrolled in any given year in some type of Adult Education program.

The Boards of Directors at the various Area Schools have adopted a policy to permit the Area Schools to contract with the local high school districts in the cooperative offering of Adult Education programs. This type of agreement permits a wide variety of Adult Education courses to be offered in each community school district throughout the state. It also provides an opportunity to utilize expensive school facilities during the evening hours and as a result, these buildings are being better utilized by the taxpayers. When we discuss Adult Education, we must realize that this program serves the individuals who are paying for the sum total of education in the state of Iowa, the adult taxpayer.

Under the cooperative agreement with the local schools, normally the Area School is responsible for the financing and promotion and administration of the Adult Programs. The local school district provides facilities, custodial services, and appoints a staff member to a part-time Adult Education supervisory position. This local supervisor or contact person then becomes responsible for working with the Area School personnel on a limited basis in the development of programs.

Many of the local school districts throughout Iowa have established an Adult Education Advisory Committee. This committee is also involved in working with the Area School Adult Education staffs in the planning of programs for their particular school districts. Adult Education programs are structured for flexibility and are geared to meet the needs of the adult enrollees. Consequently, it is often possible to develop a program to meet the needs of many different groups of adults. These programs vary in length from a two hour seminar to over 500 hours. Adult Education in Iowa's Area Schools falls into the following classifications:

1. VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL PROGRAMS
  - A. Agriculture
  - B. Distributive Education
  - C. Health Occupations
  - D. Home Economics
  - E. Office Occupations
  - F. Trade and Industrial

Some of the programs in the vocational-technical category are: Nurse's aide training, secretarial refresher, production agriculture, retail selling, supervisory development courses, basic school food service, truck driver training, machinist programs and many others that are too numerous to mention.

2. CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Courses in this area vary a great deal and not all courses are reimbursable. Some courses of general interest falling into this category are: Speed reading, upholstering, private pilot ground school, bridge, medical self help, physical fitness, money management in the home, income tax for laymen, and many others. When we consider the extremely broad offering under the general continuing education program, we must also consider the fact that courses similar to these are often the only cultural activities available to many of Iowa's residents living in small communities.

### 3. ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Basic education includes skills of reading, writing, math, spelling and geography for those who feel they are below the ninth grade level of achievement. Approximately 15% of Iowa's adult population would fall into this particular category.

### 4. ADULT HIGH SCHOOL

Through the cooperation of the local high school districts, it is possible to offer an Adult High School Program that may lead to the passing of the GED Test and the earning of the Iowa State High School Equivalency Certificate. It is also possible to earn an Adult High School Diploma. Approximately 50% of the adult population of Iowa have less than a high school diploma.

### 5. NEBIT

The NEBIT program is designed to serve the training needs of New and Expanding Business and Industry in Iowa. Although this is not the only type of program that the Area Schools can meet the needs of new industry with, it is an important one and certainly will assume greater importance in the future.

### 6. APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The apprenticeship programs in Iowa are offered in cooperation with the various unions and industries throughout the state. These programs provide an opportunity for an individual to both earn while working on the job and learn. In many cases this is a very important feature of the apprenticeship program.

### 7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Although this may seem to cover a vast area, some of the programs that have been offered through the Area Schools include: Drug seminars for

parents, parent to child relationship programs, pre-retirement planning, surveys for various chamber of commerce groups, and courses in such areas as environmental appreciation.

8. COLLEGE PARALLEL

Through the adult evening college, it is possible for a person holding a full-time job to pursue courses for college credit. Course offerings may be transferred to a state university if an enrollee decides to pursue a bachelors degree.

The above information provides somewhat of an overview of the various kinds of Adult Education programs being offered in Iowa's Area Schools throughout the state. Adult educators are continually looking for new ways to meet the needs of the citizens of Iowa and also to make a contribution to the overall quality of life that we find in Iowa. To these ends we remain continually receptive to the exploration of requests of service from the various agencies, business and industry groups, and people throughout the state.

For additional information  
Contact:

Your local Area School  
Adult Education Division

or

Department of Public Instruction  
Area Schools Branch  
Des Moines, Iowa

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