



Iowa's Community Colleges: Working Together for the Future of Iowa

Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) is a program dedicated to putting individuals on a career pathway leading to living wage employment. Funded through the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, (WIOA) Title II dollars, AEL serves individuals at least 16 years of age, who are no longer in school and who have academic and workforce skill needs. AEL providers assist individuals to become proficient in reading, writing, English language, civics education and gain the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for acquiring a high school credential, employment and postsecondary education and training.



AEL Participants and State Support

Adult Basic Education

4,942 participants

English as a Second Language

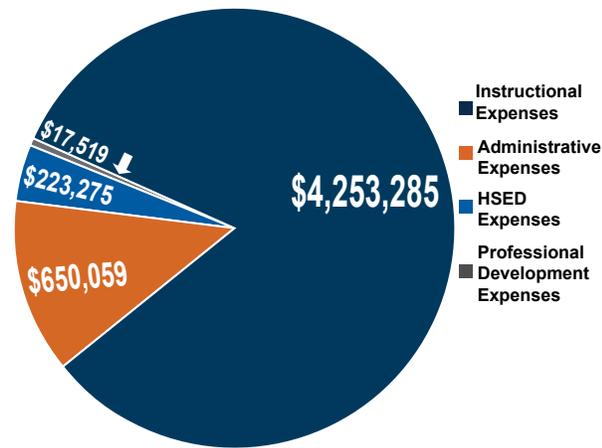
2,559 participants

High School Equivalency Diplomas

1,260 awarded

State AEL Expenditures

\$685.79 per Participant



Total State Funding Fiscal Year 2021 \$6,301,342*

* State Funds Unexpended \$779,036

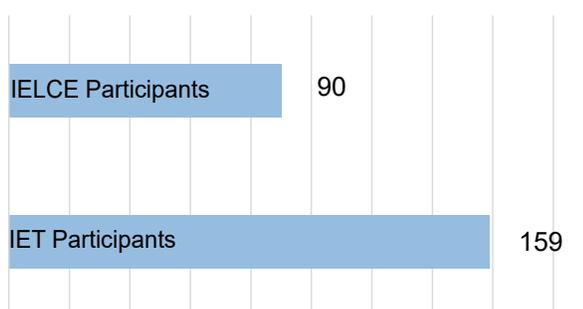


AEL Supported Activities and Outcomes

Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) are activities supported by AEL that combine basic skills, workplace skills and specific industry needed training.

A Measurable Skill Gain (MSG) demonstrates participants' progress toward achieving a credential or employment. For AEL programs, participants can demonstrate an MSG by an educational functioning level (EFL) gain or receipt of a secondary credential. A participant may have more than one period of participation, but only one gain per period of participation. Of the 7,645 periods of participation in 2021, 44.4 percent achieved a MSG.

AEL Supported Activities



AEL Outcomes, Measurable Skill Gains





Adult Education and Literacy Participants by Region

AEL Provider	Adult Basic Education	English as Second Language	Total Participants (total initial participation)
Northeast Iowa	260	26	286
North Iowa Area	146	31	177
Iowa Lakes	84	43	127
Northwest Iowa	78	89	167
Iowa Central	546	202	748
Iowa Valley	105	128	233
Hawkeye	238	293	531
Eastern Iowa	573	92	665
Kirkwood	811	496	1,307
Des Moines Area	874	575	1,449
Western Iowa Tech	284	376	660
Iowa Western	367	53	420
Southwestern	91	35	126
Indian Hills	160	106	266
Southeastern	325	14	339
Total	4,942	2,559	7,501
% of Total	65.9%	34.1%	100.0%

Each participant is a unique count; however participants may have multiple periods of participation.



Testimonials

Hyesun

Hyesun came to the United States with a dream to hold a secure job that could benefit not only herself, but also the community. With limited language skills and no credentials, however, she found few opportunities to move forward in the job market. She took the HiSET course during the pandemic while at home with two young kids. Even with many responsibilities on her plate, she was able to take the course and complete her exams thanks to a well-guided course and 1:1 coaching from the DMACC HiSET Center. Four months after connecting with a HiSET coach, Hyesun received her diploma and was offered a job at a local nonprofit organization. She was promoted from a contractor to a full-time program coordinator within six months. To those who have not yet considered taking the HiSET course, she notes “Just do it. The best benefit I received from having a HiSET diploma is the confidence that I am equally qualified with any other candidates in the job market.

Melinda

Melinda chose to enroll in the HiSET program after her employer, Ferrara Candy Company closed their doors in Creston in December 2017. Without work or an immediate interest in current openings in the community, she decided to accomplish the goal of obtaining her high school diploma. “In this day and age it’s important because you basically can’t get a good paying job without having one,” Melinda shared. For Melinda, it was the combination of in-person and distance learning paired with the encouragement and support of staff that helped her succeed as a HiSET student and give the commencement speech in June to an audience of graduating adults. Now with her diploma, Melinda is attending SWCC full-time and plans to graduate with an associate’s degree.