

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Office of Adult Education and Vocational Services

FY 2019 Annual Report

A Summary of Programs and Activities during July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Purpose of OAEVS

Illinois Dept of Corrections

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It is the mission of the Office of Adult Education and Vocational Service (OAEVS) to enhance the quality and scope of education for offenders within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) consistent with age, commitments, and sentence by ensuring that the state and federal resources are appropriately used in aiding committed persons to restore themselves to constructive and law-abiding lives in the community.

The Office of Adult Education and Vocational Services (OAEVS) aims to enhance the quality and scope of education for offenders within the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) by ensuring that state and federal resources are appropriately used in aiding committed persons to restore themselves and become constructive, law-abiding citizens upon release.

OAEVS continues to provide quality educational opportunities to the offender population with the goal of increasing academic achievement. Education has proven to be vital to reducing recidivism and creating opportunities for offenders to better themselves. OAEVS staff will continue to work hard in assisting offenders in achieving their educational goals.

Since January 1, 1987, all offenders committed to IDOC for two or more years, except those serving life sentences, take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) to determine their academic level. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, 12,685 offenders were tested at intake with 6,549 offenders scoring below the sixth grade level. Offenders

are also eligible for Earned Program Service Credit (EPSC). In FY 2019, the OAEVS awarded 587,074 days. This is an increase of 303,151 days above FY 2018.

Library services are available throughout IDOC. Libraries offer a variety of recreational reading materials such as books, magazines and newspapers. Offenders have a constitutional right to access the court system. Law libraries are maintained and contain Federal and State of Illinois Constitutions, statutes and court decisions. Resource materials help offenders research the law and prepare legal documents exercising their constitutional right of access to state and federal courts.

Adult Basic Education (ABE) is a critical component in the education programming of OAEVS. ABE is mandatory for all offenders scoring below 6.0 on the TABE test. Mandatory ABE students must attend a minimum of 90 days of instruction. The ABE core curriculum provides instruction in basic reading, writing, mathematics and life skills. The program is designed to provide students with a base of skills and knowledge that will prepare them for additional academic/vocational instruction and subsequent employment.

High School Equivalency (HSE), formally known as GED, is available to all offenders who score a 9.0 or higher on a TABE test. This level was changed to 8.0 in January 2019 due to the new TABE test. In FY2016, OAEVS implemented computer-based instruction and testing of HSE at all facilities. The number of offenders completing their HSE went from 346 in FY 2016 to 660 in FY 2017 to 723 in FY 2018 to 735 in FY 2019. Offenders continue to succeed at a rate of 93% which is #1 in the nation.

Post-secondary educational programming continues to be vital in the rehabilitation of offenders. College-level coursework was offered in vocational areas such as Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Barbering, Career Tech, Construction Occupations, Commercial Custodial, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Manufacturing Skills, Nail Tech, Restaurant Management, Warehousing and Welding. These programs educate offenders in practical vocational applications allowing the hands-on training that can be carried on to the workforce upon release.

College academic courses were offered that allowed students the opportunity to pursue an associate degree. Research has indicated that the higher the level of education achievement, the lower the percentage of offender recidivism. OAEVS encourages all offenders to participate in a degree earning program, with the goal of preparing them for employment upon release. The OAEVS continues to work with major colleges towards implementing a 4 year degree programs.

OAEVS Services

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

- Focuses on improving skills in reading, writing, and math.
- Aids student in becoming a productive citizen through life skills instruction.
- Provides stepping stone to further academic / vocational achievement.
- Evaluates student ability and growth through use of TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education).

LIFE SKILLS REFERRAL CENTERS

- Provide ex-offenders, probationers, and parolees life skills training, job training, housing, counseling, and transportation.
- Utilize referrals provided by designated facility coordinators.

LIBRARY SERVICES

- Supply recreational reading materials to over 39,000 residents.
- Support Adult Education Programs.
- Provide legal reference materials, forms, and assistance.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

- Offers college credit vocational programs at 20 adult facilities.
- Provides assistance through transitional placement programming via community-based life skills centers.
- Emphasizes the improvement of academic skills while acquiring vocational skills.

HSE TESTING PROGRAM

- Prepares students for successful completion of HSE test.
- 735 Offenders received their HSE in FY 2019.
- Attained a FY 2019 HSE success rate of 93%.

GRANTS

- Receive funding from federal and state sources.
- Provide a significant contribution to Adult Education funding.
- Increase program diversity.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

TABE Testing at Intake

Year	Offenders Tested at Intake	Offenders Scoring Below a 6.0	
2019	12,685	6,549	51.62%
2018	12,892	5,055	39.21%
2017	13,913	5,207	37.43%
2016	13,356	4,945	37.02%

The amount of offenders being tested has remained stable over the past four years with those scoring below a 6.0 Grade Level (GL) increasing by 14.6% over the same period of time. An increase of 1,494 in FY 2019 can be attributable to the new Test of Adult Basic Education that is aligned to the College and Career Readiness Standards, which took effect in January 2018 and was implemented for a full fiscal year in 2019.

ABE Completers

Year	Number of Students	Offender Completing ABE	
2019	8,167	3,560	43.59%
2018	8,323	3,876	46.57%
2017	8,732	2,455	28.11%
2016	6,805	2,142	31.48%

Adult Basic Education (ABE) consists of offenders enrolled in mandatory school (scoring less than a 6.0 GL on the TABE and attending school for 90 days), voluntary school, English as a Second Language (ESL), special education, AEFL and Advanced ABE (voluntary school for student with a grade level equivalent between 6.0 & 8.5). In FY 2019, there were 1,839 who achieved above a 6.0 GL in mandatory school.

ASE Program

Year	Number of Students	Offender Completing GED	
2019	1,769	735	41.54%
2018	2,033	723	35.56%
2017	2,089	660	31.59%
2016	2,170	346	15.94%

Offender must have a 8.0 GL or above on the TABE to enroll in the Adult Secondary Education Program (ASE). To be a completer, student's must complete the US Constitution Test, pass the i-Pathways curriculum with a 75%, score a 145 or higher on the Pre-GED test and then pass the GED test with a 145 or higher in Math, Science, Social Studies and Reasoning through Language Arts. The numbers of completers was low in FY 2016 due the first year of implementing the on-line version of the GED.

Wait List

Year	ABE	Advanced ABE	ASE	Total
2019	5,286	1,202	260	6,748
2018	3,053	1,467	395	4,915
2017	2,797	846	317	3,960
2016	2,743	0	535	3,278

Education continues to be a positive motivator for offenders. The wait list has increased 97.62% since FY 2016, 63.59% since FY 2017 and 31.80% from FY 2018. The increase can be attributed to two factors: (1) the amount of educators decreased due primarily to a lack of funds (no budget in FY 2016 and FY 2017) and the department is still recovering, and (2) a new law that took effect on January 1, 2018 which allows for more offenders to earn program sentence credit. The education program continues to be the top producer of “good time” within the IDOC. Note: Advanced ABE numbers were not tracked in FY 2016.

Earned Program Sentence Credit	2019	2018	2017	2016
Number of Participants Enrolled on EPSC Academic	13,756	10,996	10,650	8,035
Number of Participants Enrolled on EPSC Vocational	8,254	4,984	3,892	3,579
Number of Days Awarded ASE Completers	58,770	37,170	29,520	18,890
Number of Days Awarded Academic	318,480	166,874	118,640	96,262
Number of Days Awarded Vocational	209,824	79,879	42,692	45,417

Offenders continue to enroll in school and be eligible for Earn Program Sentence Credit (EPSC). In FY 2018, 15,980 students participated in EPSC contracts for “good time” with the OAEVS awarding 283,923 EPSC days. FY 2019 saw 22,010 participate in EPSC contracts (increase of 37.73%) and OAEVS awarding 587,074 (increase of 106.77%).

Cost Saving to the IDOC

Year	Days Awarded	Dollars Saved
2019	587,074	Not Known At This Time
2018	283,923	\$1,705,871
2017	190,822	\$1,133,431
2016	160,669	\$875,536

The number of days awarded has increased 265.39% since FY 2016, 207.66% from FY 2017 and 106.77% from FY 2018. The amount of dollars saved by OAEVS awarding EPSC since FY 2016 is not known at this time due to the marginal cost not being available.

Vocational Information

Year	Participants	Completers	Waitlist
2019	5,000	2,438	4,081
2018	3,508	2,200	2,965
2017	4,169	2,468	2,447
2016	4,428	2,615	3,358

Students participated in the following classes: Auto Body, Auto Technology, Barbering, Construction Occupations, Construction Management, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Custodial Maintenance, Horticulture, Horticulture Management, Manufacturing Skills, Remedial Bridge, Restaurant Management, Warehousing and Welding. In FY 2019, 48.8% of the students completed courses. The number of participants and completers increased due to previously unfilled educator positions caused by budgetary issues being filled in FY 2019.

Career Technology Class

Year	Participants	Completers	
2019	1,670	1,460	87.43%
2018	1,519	1,280	84.27%
2017	1,506	1,219	80.94%
2016	2,465	2,027	82.23%

Career Technology is a 20 day class for offenders which focuses on resume writing, interview skills and financial literacy. The decrease in participants from FY 2016 to FY 2018 can be attributed to budgetary issues causing educator positions to go unfilled. FY 2019 saw the percentage of completers reach a 4 year high.

2 Year Degree

Year	Participants	Completers
2019	8,608	185
2018	5,954	151
2017	7,603	288
2016	8,343	249

The number of participants is a cumulative total, meaning one student could take all classes offered at a facility. FY 2016 to FY 2018 saw declining number because of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) reimbursement rates declining along with lingering effects of the budget crisis which effected hiring of staff. FY 2019 saw participants and completers increase due to more classes being offered at various facilities.

Certificate by Program

Program	2017	2018	2019
Auto Body	41	47	33
Auto Tech	137	175	132
Construction Occupations	466	420	507
Construction Management	0	0	8
Cosmetology	19	9	0
Culinary Arts	434	382	431
Custodial Maint.	420	332	403
Horticulture	283	308	450
Horticulture Manage	0	0	4
Manufacturing Skills	0	0	7
Restaurant Mgmt.	76	0	45
Warehousing	145	195	93
Welding	64	98	85

The fluctuation of certificates from year to year is attributed to the budget, filling of instructional positions, starting new programs, and when courses were completed (i.e. at the end of a fiscal year). FY 2019 achieved a 3 year high with 2,198 certificates.

Credit Hours by Program

Program	2017	2018	2019
Auto Body	1,294	1,516	1,718
Auto Tech	4,361	4,059	4,091
Career Tech	6,152	4,952	6,176
Construction Occupations	7,477	7,143	9,324
Construction Management	0	0	310
Cosmetology	761	383	850
Culinary Arts	7,032	6,468	7,212
Custodial Maint.	7,549	6,862	7,977
Horticulture	5,319	6,464	8,089
Horticulture Manage	0	0	157
Manufacturing Skills	0	0	249
Remedial Bridge	907	911	486
Restaurant Mgmt.	961	0	599
Warehousing	1,780	2,002	1,353
Welding	1,437	1,434	1,537

Credit hours were down in many programs due to staffing issues which were a result of the budget impasse in FY 2017 and FY 2018. FY 2019 achieved a 3 year high with 50,128 credit hours.

Vocational Staffing	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Sites	18*	18*	20*	25
Total Instructors Hired	8	0	25	66
Total Instructors Separated From College	10	11	12	25
Total Instructors End of Fiscal Year	78*	67*	80*	153

Staffing has fluctuated over the past few years due to fiscal concerns. FY 2017 saw a hiring freeze. With a budget in place, vocational staff were able to be hired. Additionally, programs returned to Centralia, Lincoln, Logan and Decatur. *Amended from FY 2018 Annual Report.

OAEVS Staffing	2019	2018	2017	2016
Corrections Law Library Asst	15	8	0	0
Corrections Vocational Instructor	1	2	2	2
Educator	124	119	123	121
Executive I	1	1	1	1
Executive Secretary II	0	0	1	1
Librarian I	13	8	7	9
Library Associate	8	6	13	12
Office Adm Specialist	1	0	1	1
Office Assistant	1	0	1	1
Office Coordinator	10	10	10	11
Paralegal Assistant	0	1	7	8
Public Service Adm	19	16	16	17
Reproduction Serv Tech III	0	1	1	1
Senior PSA	1	1	1	0
Teacher of Barbering	2	2	1	2
Teacher of Beauty Culture	2	1	1	1
Totals	198	176	186	188

Staffing continues to be an issue due to budgetary concerns and allotted head count. In FY 2018, the Office of Adult Education and Vocational Services (OAEVS) was at a five year low. FY 2019 picked up due to an increase in head count and a budget in place.

Budgeting For Results Commission 7th Annual Report

Program	Benefit to Cost Ratio	Avg. Recidivism Change Predicted
Correctional Post-Secondary Education	\$38.75	-9.20%
Correctional Adult Basic Education/GED	\$8.23	-4.70%
Vocational Education in Prison	\$2.23	-6.80%

In FY 2018, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) spearheaded the Budgeting For Results Commission to produce the 7th Annual Report focusing on correctional education. The quantitative program analysis predicted all three programs will have a positive return on investment and anticipates a reduction in recidivism. Program analysis supports the determination that all three programs are effective as implemented compared to national best practices.

Grants

The OAEVS administers three grants: Career and Technical Education (CTE), Carl Perkins, and the Adult and Family Education Literacy (AEFL). The CTE grant is \$894,450 and provides equipment and supplies for vocational programs. Perkins grant is a Federal grant for \$228,000 which provides supplies, equipment, and staff development for vocational education. The AEFL grant of \$893,910 focuses on adult education literacy and supports partial salaries, benefits, staff development and supplies for 13 educators.