

## **Adult Basic Education Program (Iowa Department of Education)**

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Iowa Lakes Community College serves approximately 50-80 English language learners annually. The majority of the learners are Hispanic and Southeast Asian. Most of the participants are employed at local factories. Many of the participants are beginning and intermediate English language learners. The primary motivation for student participation is to improve job and living skills. Oral language skills are crucial to meeting their needs.

English instruction is available in all counties. Four counties offer classes: Clay, Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto. Services are provided in Dickinson County through one-to-one tutoring upon request. Volunteer tutors are available in the five-county area for adults who need one-to-one assistance in addition to classes. Instructors help literacy learners understand about the local community, living skills and work skills. Learners interested in citizenship receive educational coursework in American culture, history and the INS Citizenship test.

Teachers in English Literacy classes use the CASAS Employability or Life Skills assessments to track student progress. Students who certify within their level are issued Basic Skills certificates. Teachers and students use the class and individual competency lists provided by TOPpro.

A variety of materials are used to provide instruction including: books, video series, and software. Instructors have a variety of software to choose from: vocabulary building, grammar, or pronunciation. Computers and software can be used to provide, or enhance, oral language instruction within classes. Students who use the computers are gaining knowledge of the English language as well as improving computer skills.

During the upcoming year, classes will be enhanced by increasing the number of instructional sites and hours staff are available through partnership with Iowa Lakes Community College Success Centers, which are open over 35 hours each week. Basic English language software and video educational materials will be purchased and placed in the Success Centers at all five Iowa Lakes campuses.