

Intensive College Readiness Programs



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Overview and Purpose: Intensive college bridge programs that integrate Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) students into the college environment are effective models to support the transition and success of adult learners from a community- or campus-based adult education program into academic or workforce training programs. Twelve colleges and several education service centers in the state were awarded Intensive College Readiness Programs for Adult Education Students (IPAES) grants between 2009-2014 to establish intensive bridge programs on their college campuses and in partnership with AEL programs in their community. An AEL student with a college I.D. can also obtain a parking pass on the campus, utilize the college library or computer lab, buy class books at the bookstore, or visit an academic tutor.

AEL students in these transition programs are more likely to see postsecondary education as a viable option for their continuing education. While these program models are alternatives to traditional semester length adult and developmental education courses, they demand a dedicated transition advisor or coordinator, innovative instructors, and intrinsically motivated learners.

Intensive instructional approaches aim to limit the need for further remediation upon completion of the intervention. Intensity in instruction means that students focus on improving a particular academic skill for more hours in a day or week than they might otherwise experience in a typical adult education program (e.g., 6 hours/week) or a single college developmental education course (e.g., 3-6 hours/week). Between January 2010 and August 2014, over 2000 adult learners were enrolled in THECB-funded intensive programs at community colleges across the state. In 2018, new grants were awarded to four community colleges that expect to serve over 650 students.

Program Goals

Limit the time underprepared adult learners spend in developmental education across all subject areas and provide the students with:

- the necessary knowledge and skills to transition, persist, and succeed in college-level work;
- the knowledge to navigate the college system;
- the strategies for success in reaching personal learning goals for college and career.

Program Characteristics

- Located at a community college to support college integration for adult education students transitioning to higher education
- Intensity of instruction - 18-20 hours a week over 4 to 8 weeks in reading/writing and mathematics aligned to the Texas CCRS.
- Wraparound services (e.g. transportation, childcare, emergency aid) to support student persistence and success
- Flexible schedules to support working adult learners
- College and career navigation and mentoring, financial literacy, and completion of FAFSA and college application

For more information on the Intensive College Readiness instructional models, contact Linda Muñoz at 512.427.6525 or Linda.Munoz@theccb.state.tx.us