

## **Statewide Education Contextualized Bridge Curriculum**

The Illinois Community College Board's (ICCB) Adult Education Division is pleased to release a statewide Adult Education Bridge Curriculum for Education to programs seeking to enhance current programs or to develop Bridge Programs. Bridge Programs are designed to offer students the opportunity to participate in basic skill instruction that is contextualized with occupational knowledge and skills, career awareness and development activities, as well as offer services that transition students to postsecondary education.

The purpose of this Education Bridge Curriculum is to provide training for those interested in Early Childhood Education or general paraprofessional roles. The curriculum introduces key concepts and terminology across multiple education employment options, as they are integrated into basic skills instruction. The curriculum is divided into five subject modules. Each module is designed to be used together and/or as a standalone, depending on the needs of the program. For example, the Career Awareness module is appropriate for all students as they help to prepare and learn about the occupations in education as well as essential technology skills. The curriculum provides expanded opportunities for our students to learn and grow, and provides students with an enhanced opportunity for education.

This curriculum will serve as a useful resource in developing programs and services that meet the needs of students, education, and the workforce. Bridge Programs are one example of how to assist adult learners in transitioning to postsecondary, career and technical education programs, and/or pathway employment.

### **Statewide Education Bridge Curriculum - Instructions for Use**

The focus of the Statewide Education Bridge Curriculum is to educate and train workers for sustainable employment or post-secondary training in the field of transportation, distribution, and logistics. The goal is to combine adult education

academics with the skills needed in the workplace through contextualized instruction. The instruction includes a combination of identified workplace competencies, career exploration, and basic skills presented in an occupational context.

The following five modules are included in this curriculum:

- Contextualized Language Arts & Writing
- Contextualized Social Studies
- Contextualized Science
- Contextualized Math
- Career Awareness

Each of the five modules is organized in a similar fashion to streamline usage, containing the Module document and an accompanying Activities/Resources document with all the materials needed to conduct the module lesson activities.

The Module file contains the curriculum framework, which is organized into a series of Outcomes that include the following sections:

- ABE/ASE Content Standards
- English Language Proficiency Standards
- Illinois Civic Competencies
- Activities/Resources Assessment
- ELL Supports / Instructor Notes

The outcomes have been correlated with the Illinois ABE/ASE Content Standards, the Illinois English Language Proficiency Standards, and the Illinois Civics Competencies.

The curriculum is designed for ABE/ASE students at NRS Level 3 (4.0-5.9 grade level) and English Language Learners at the Low-High Intermediate Levels. However, some activities included here are appropriate for learners at lower NRS levels, when suggested supports and scaffolding are in place. The curriculum includes overarching considerations for English Language Learners, including supports for vocabulary and reading instruction.

These modules are designed to stand alone or be used in an integrated fashion. Each of the contextualized content modules can provide expanded opportunities for students to learn and grow.

Teachers should feel empowered to begin with this rich curriculum and add their own knowledge, experiences, and engaging opportunities for learning.

## **Acknowledgements**

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