

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Adult Education Act of 1966 was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on November 3, 1966, establishing a vibrant education system comprised of a partnership between the federal government and the states; and,

WHEREAS, over 22 million American adults nationally have Basic or Below Basic literacy skills that limit their ability to advance at work and in education; and,

WHEREAS, over 20 million adults nationally do not speak English very well or at all; and,

WHEREAS, in Illinois more than 1.2 million adults do not have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate and approximately 2.73 million immigrants speak a language other than English in their homes; and,

WHEREAS, the best predictor of the educational achievement of the child is the educational achievement of the parent; and,

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was signed into law to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services so they can compete in the global economy; and,

WHEREAS, a literate and skilled workforce promotes job creation and economic growth in the state, and Illinois adult learners have access to basic education, high quality career pathways, postsecondary education, and training programs in high demand occupations; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 90 percent of the fastest growing jobs of the future will require education or training beyond high school; and,

WHEREAS, adult education promotes the lifelong process of self-improvement including the acquisition of self-sustaining high skilled employment that provides a family sustaining wage, promotes self-esteem and a sense of empowerment, increases a person's ability to reach their maximum potential, and assists the state and nation to reach economic stability and competitiveness;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 18 – September 24, 2022, as **Adult Education and Literacy Week** in Illinois recognizing that our state honors the teachers, adult educators, community partners, and the thousands of adult learners that have created and participated in this unique education system which promotes the inclusion of all Illinois residents in the democratic, social, and economic processes of our state and nation.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this SEVENTH day of SEPTEMBER,

in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

TWENTY-TWO, and of the State of Illinois,

two hundred and FOURTH.



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SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR