



A proud partner of the American **Job** Center network

A BLUEPRINT FOR ALIGNMENT

Breaking Silos

Adult Education + Workforce Alignment

Emphasizing IECC's Early Childhood Education Pathway

OCTOBER 13, 2026

IECC • CONNECTED COMMUNITY PATHWAYS



ADULT EDUCATION
ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES
01

THE REGIONAL REALITY

Distance becomes a barrier.

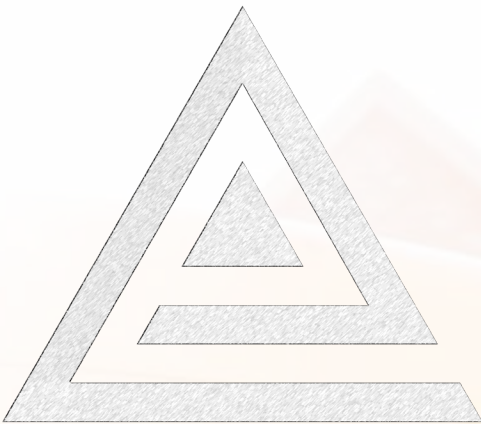
Workforce Innovation Areas 23 & 26 span a large rural region where limited public transit, economic pressure, and fragmented services make every handoff harder.

The shift: from referral lists to daily alignment—and a true no wrong-door system.



ONE PATHWAY. MANY DOORS.

Partnership is the infrastructure.



ADULT EDUCATION
ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE ECE
Credential • ICAPS • Degree

IECC ADULT EDUCATION
Screen • Bridge • Support

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
Train • Coordinate • Align

WADI + LOCAL EMPLOYERS
Practice • Mentor • Hire

Shared testing • Dual enrollment • Warm referrals • Joint training • Shared data • Intentional communication



URGENT + REACHABLE

A workforce opportunity within reach.

Demand for qualified early childhood professionals is growing. The talent is here but foundational literacy, workplace language, and digital confidence can stand between people and progress.

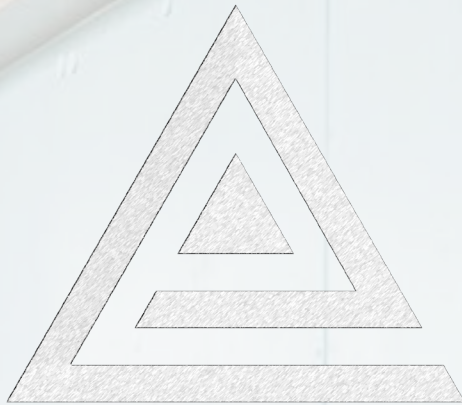
Adult Education changes the equation through screening, Gateway navigation, and guided progress.



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IECC • CONNECTED COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

Four steps. No dead ends.



ADULT EDUCATION
ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

01

**ADULT EDUCATION
BRIDGE**

CASAScreened • contextual ECE
literacy

02

**PRE -
APPRENTICESHIP**

Gateway Level 1HyFlex
emotional intelligence

03

**REGISTERED
APPRENTICESHIP**

Paidon-the-job learning with
WADI + IECC

04

CREDIT → DEGREE

Gateway 2 &3 • credentials •
AAS

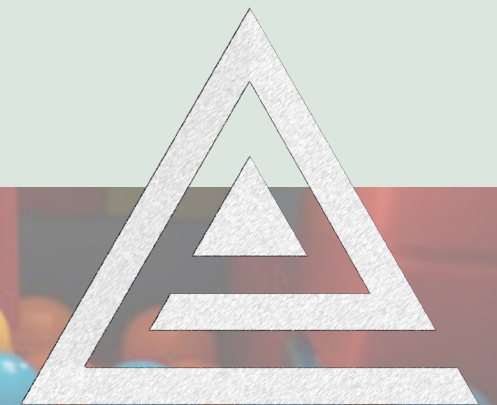
Adult Education turns readiness into momentum.

BRIDGE

Contextualized ECE learning for adults earning an Illinois High School Diploma—with a Gateway Level 1 credential opportunity built in.

ICAPS

Dual enrollment in Wabash Valley College ECE courses, creating supported progression toward Gateway Levels 2 and 3, certification, and an associate degree.



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Work -ready talent, built together.

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP

Foundational skills + Gateway Level 1
Co-regulation, stress, workplace
empathy

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

Certification and credentialing
On-the-job learning in local ECE
settings

No direct employer cost • Braided support from Illinois Adult Education + WIOA



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CLEAR ROLES. SHARED OUTCOMES.

The partner network at work



ADULT EDUCATION

ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

01	IECC ADULT EDUCATION	CASAS screening • Bridge • workplace literacy
02	WVC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	Gateway credentials • ICAPS • degree
03	IECC BUSINESS & INDUSTRY	Foundational skills • apprenticeship coordination
04	WADI + LOCAL DAYCARES	Employer partners • learning sites • mentors
05	WORKFORCE PARTNERS	Recruitment • shared data • economic alignment

Success is supported — and visible.

WRAPAROUND

Workplace literacy
Digital skills coaching
Emotional intelligence

MEASURE

MSG Type 1
EFL gains

MILESTONE

MSG Type 4
Gateway Level 1

One learner journey, tracked concurrently in OPSPrø and apprenticeship milestones.

6

employees
learning now.

On-the-job training + Wabash Valley
College coursework—a connected
community pathway in action.



ECE is one pathway in a growing ecosystem.

MANUFACTURING
BRIDGE

HEALTHCARE
BRIDGE

CNA
ICAPS

WELDING

BROADBAND

EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION

Shared DNA: workplace literacy • employer partnership • braided funding • credentials that stack

Build. Learn. Expand.

2024 –25

Manufacturing +
Healthcare Bridges
CNA ICAPS expansion

2026

ECE Bridge +
apprenticeships
with WADI and Southern 14

ONGOING

Workplace literacy +
braided funding

SUMMER 2025

Fairfield Memorial Hospital
pre-apprenticeship pilot

2026 –27

Agriculture • automotive •
office management



ADULT EDUCATION
ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Scale what works.

01 Formalize Adult Education's role

02 Launch + scale ICAPS ECE-apprenticeships

03 Track MSG Type 1 + Type 4 concurrently

04 Expand employer + community engagement

05 Strengthen data sharing + communication



A CALL TO COLLABORATION

“Together, we break silos and build seamless pathways for Early Childhood Education workforce success.”

Deepen partnership. Share resources. Create the next solution.

LET'S BUILD THE NEXT CONNECTION



CONNECTED COMMUNITY PATHWAYS



ADULT EDUCATION
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Thank you.

For your partnership, your commitment, and the questions that move this work forward.

QUESTIONS + DISCUSSION