

# Lit Scan

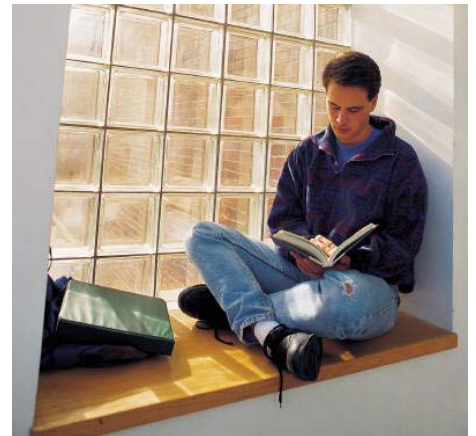
## Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

Volume 9 - Number 3

February 22, 2005

### 7 Out of 10 Colorado Adult Education Program Participants Make Educational Progress

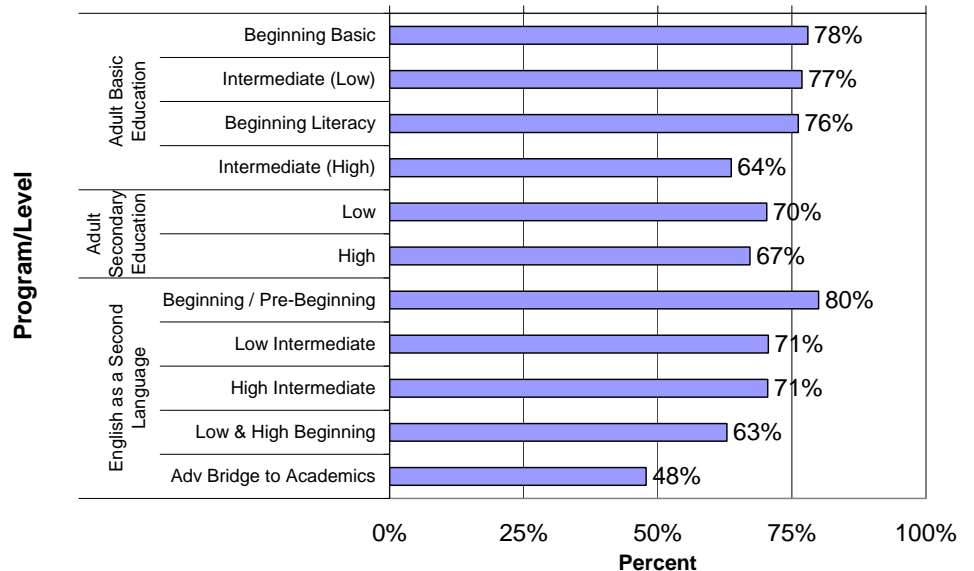
Colorado's adult education programs have three components: Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, and English as a Second Language. In all three components, Colorado's adult education programs experienced remarkable success during 2003-04. Across the three components, seven out of ten program participants completed one or more levels and advanced to the next one.



#### Adult Basic Education (ABE)

A component of adult education. ABE is instruction in basic skills below the 9th grade level. Adult education serves individuals who are at least 16 years of age and who are either not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law. In addition, they do not have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent, are unable to speak, read, or write in English, and/or otherwise lack sufficient mastery of basic educational skills to function effectively in society.

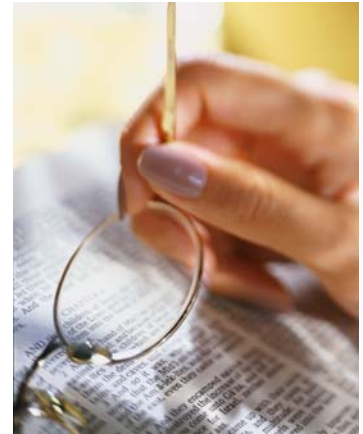
#### Improvement in Literacy Skills for Tested Adults Enrolled by Literacy Level



With the exception of the intermediate level (64%), more than three out of four ABE participants (76 to 78%) progressed from one level to another during 2003-04.

### **Adult Secondary Education (ASE)**

Another component of adult education, ASE is instruction in basic skills at or above the 9th grade level (9-12). Adult High School (AHS) and GED preparation comprise Adult Secondary Education. Seven out of 10 participants in this component (70% low, 67% high) advance to higher levels of educational functioning.



### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

ESL is a program of instruction designed to help individuals of limited English proficiency achieve competence in the English language. The percentage of students advancing from one level to another varied dramatically depending on the type or level of ESL involved. Advances were achieved by

- four out of five pre-beginning and beginning students (80%),
- seven out of 10 intermediate students (71%),
- three out of five low and high beginning students (63%) and
- just under half of those involved in Advanced Bridge to Academics (48%)

---

### **SOURCES**

- Colorado Department of Education. Part I: Statistical Report. AEFLA, 2003-2004, Federal Table 4B: Educational Gains and Attendance by Educational Functioning Level, with Completion Breakdown and Progress Within Levels. (Not available online.)

---

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information about this study or other projects of the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative, contact: Keith Curry Lance, Colorado Department of Education, 201 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 309, Denver, CO 80203-1799, (303) 866-6737, fax (303) 866-6940, e-mail lance\_k@cde.state.co.us