



National Coalition For Literacy

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education ◦ Adult Literacy Media Alliance ◦ American Council on Education, GED Testing Service ◦ American Institutes for Research ◦ American Library Association ◦ Center for Literacy Studies, University of Tennessee ◦ Commission on Adult Basic Education ◦ Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy and the Goodling Institute for Research, Pennsylvania State University ◦ International Reading Association ◦ National Center for Family Literacy ◦ National Council of State Directors of Adult Education ◦ ProLiteracy Worldwide ◦ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. ◦ World Education

National Coalition for Literacy Overarching Federal Public Policy Principles

Adopted September 17, 2009

The members of the National Coalition for Literacy support the following overarching federal public policy principles:

General

- Any and all relevant federal legislation uses a common definition of adult basic education:

“All adult education and literacy services, including workplace and career and college pathway services; family literacy services; and English literacy and language acquisition programs.”¹
- The broadest possible array of adult basic education services is available to the largest possible number of adult learners
- A wide range of adult basic education instruction programs have access to the resources and the professional support necessary to provide high quality services to adult learners
- Relevant federal initiatives address the adult basic education requirements of those who live in poverty and are most in need

Legislation

- The urgent enactment of adult basic education authorizing legislation
- The implementation of Department of Education regulations that support Congressional intent in authorizing legislation

Appropriations

- A minimum of \$1 billion in federal appropriations to fund adult basic education with subsequent increases to meet the demand for instructional services
- Funding for family literacy initiatives

¹ National Coalition for Literacy 2009 Workforce Investment Act Recommendations, Title II, Section 231, (b 1-3).

Research

- The creation of a robust and ongoing federal research and resource dissemination initiative in adult basic education

Elementary and Secondary Education

- Legislation that addresses the educational needs of children must include provisions to address the instructional needs of their parents, families, and communities

English Language Learning

- Initiatives that create opportunities for immigrants to learn English and civics by building and enhancing the capacity of current adult basic education and family literacy systems and programs and provide resources for the professional development of educators working with adult English language learners

Health and Literacy

- Health care reform initiatives that:
 - Ensure that adults have access to, and can process and understand, the basic health literacy information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions
 - Ensure that health and medical practitioners have the skills that they need to ensure effective communication with patients with limited basic and English language skills
 - Promote collaboration among government agencies and educational and medical professionals to ensure that health literacy is a public policy priority

Corrections

- Legislative initiatives that encourage the provision of adult basic education to those who are incarcerated