



# National Coalition For Literacy

## 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 any language acquisition programs.”*
- 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
- Federal programs and initiatives should support the economic and non-economic needs of adult learners that impact their ability to access and succeed in adult basic education or ESL programs<sup>ii</sup>

### 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



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## 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

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

<sup>ii</sup> Updated November 30, 2011