

**Promising Practices for Goal Six: Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning**  
*Every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.*

For Goal Six, the National Education Goals Panel focused on the percentage of adults who scored at or above Level 3 in prose literacy on the State Adult Literacy Survey of 1992. Nationwide, 52 percent of adults scored at Level 3 or above on the survey. Washington and Indiana were the two states that performed significantly above the national average.

In **Washington**, 69 percent of adults scored at Level 3 or above, making it the nation's top-performing state.

- In 1988, the state legislature made funds available for family literacy.
- The state has its own Even Start program, which includes a family literacy component that has adults learning to read along with their children.
- In 1989, federal funding was directed to English as a Second Language programs. These programs have provided assistance to the agricultural community in particular.
- Adult literacy is a major mission of community and technical colleges.

**Indiana** is the second highest performing state, with 58 percent of adults scoring at Level 3 or above.

- The state links adult education and workforce development with literacy.
- The Indiana Literacy Foundation, a public-private partnership, provides an umbrella for literacy programs in the state. The Foundation works with 300 volunteer literacy programs statewide.
- Successful strategies and practices are disseminated through the Literacy Success Network by list serves, newsletters and distance learning.
- The Foundation also works to educate the public and state lawmakers on the scope of adult literacy issues and promising local solutions.
- The Indiana Adult Literacy Coalition advises the governor on literacy and encourages coordination of state agencies.

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