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*The Voice of  
Adult Education  
in Massachusetts*

## **Congress Declares National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week - October 18 to 24**

**Press Release  
Release**

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**For Immediate**

Contact: Kenneth Tamarkin  
Executive Director, MCAE  
978-979-1906  
[ktamarkin@mace.net](mailto:ktamarkin@mace.net)

Boston, MA - Congress has declared October 18 - 24, 2009 as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Key sponsor Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) was joined by Massachusetts Congressmen Michael Capuano, Edward Markey and James McGovern and 23 other co-signers who supported the resolution as a result of literacy advocacy and outreach encouraged by the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE).

Adult basic education (ABE) help adult students improve their basic literacy and math skills, improve their oral and written English, study for the General Education Development (GED) test to attain a high school credential, and prepare for community college or vocational training.

According to the State Assessment of Adult Literacy for Massachusetts released in December 2005 by the National Center for Education Statistics, a significant number of adults in the state do not have sufficient literacy skills: 32% of adults were at Below Basic and Basic on the prose literacy scale which is the ability to read and comprehend a continuous text such as newspaper articles, editorials or brochures. In Massachusetts, approximately 22,400 adults are currently enrolled in ABE programs funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), and 21,300 adults are currently on waiting lists for ABE programs funded by the Department because there aren't adequate resources to fund needed programs in the state.

The media can celebrate Adult Education and Family Literacy Week by publishing stories and literacy facts to raise public awareness as to the extent of the need and power of the solutions. Contact MCAE to arrange an interview or visit to an adult education or family literacy program in Massachusetts.

MCAE is the statewide organization for practitioners, adult students, individuals and organizations supporting equal educational opportunities for all adults. MCAE is dedicated to the advancement of adult education through high quality services and professionalism in the field from basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) through preparation for a high school credential such

as the General Educational Development (GED) test to programs such as family literacy, workforce development, and workplace education to transitions to post-secondary education. For more information about adult basic education in Massachusetts visit [www.mcae.net](http://www.mcae.net).

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**Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education**

101 Tremont Street, Suite 812

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

617-482-MCAE (6223)

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