

INTEGRATED DIGITAL ENGLISH ACCELERATION (I-DEA)

“Immigrants (are) insistent that learning English is critical for their success. Focus group discussions made it clear that this conviction is driven by pragmatism and the desire to be understood. Fully 85 percent say it is hard to get a good job or do well in this country without learning English; only 12 percent say it is easy. Some immigrants also see learning English as an ethical obligation.” Migration Policy Institute article citing a research study by Public Agenda, May 2003

A better idea for Adult English Language learners



Washington state has a large and rapidly growing foreign-born population. In 2011, immigrants made up 16.5 percent of Washington's civilian employed workforce, up from 7.1 percent in 1990.¹

These new arrivals create jobs by forming businesses, spending income in local economies and raising employers' productivity. Thanks to project I-DEA (Integrated Digital English Acceleration), English language learners who face the largest language gaps are learning English while gaining skills for college and careers.

Now in its pilot phase, I-DEA already shows great promise. Outcomes from the first year of instruction show student learning gains that are 9 percent to 10 percent higher than the gains of English language learners in traditional programs.²

Community and technical colleges provide the bulk of English-language instruction in Washington. Project I-DEA is transforming instruction statewide.

How it works

Funded with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, I-DEA features:

- **Community-based hubs:** Groups of 25 adults learn at local “hubs,” partnerships between community and technical colleges and community-based organizations. Students participate in 33, week-long instructional modules that blend English language instruction with college and career skills. Topics range from navigating your community and information literacy, to professional communication, job exploration and interview skills.
- **Integrated learning:** Unlike traditional approaches – in which learners are expected to learn English before pursuing job-training – I-DEA teaches English in tandem with college and career skills. Students quickly learn skills relevant to their lives and careers.
- **“Flipped” classes:** Students complete online modules to learn, practice and develop knowledge of concepts before coming to class. They then use classroom time to apply and practice what they've learned. In-class instructors and peer support guide and enhance skill acquisition.
- **Computer access:** Students receive computers and 24-7 internet access to complete coursework that prepares them for college and family-wage jobs.

- **Transition to I-BEST:** I-DEA is based on Washington's I-BEST program, which integrates instruction using team-teaching to combine college-readiness classes with job training. I-DEA connects to I-BEST and other programs that lead to certificates, degrees and family-wage jobs.

Pilot colleges and partners

- Bellingham Technical College
Whatcom Literacy Council
- Big Bend Community College
Inspire Development Center (Washington Migrant Council)
- Clark College
Student Learning Center
- Edmonds Community College
Latino Education Training Institute
- Grays Harbor College
Grays Harbor College Foundation
- Green River Community College
Seattle Education Access
- Lake Washington Institute of Technology
Hopelink
- Lower Columbia College
Longview Public Library
- North Seattle College
Seattle Goodwill
- Olympic College
Kitsap Adult Center for Education
- Peninsula College
Forks Hispanic Family Association
- Pierce College Fort Steilacoom
Fort Steilacoom Linc NW
- Pierce College Puyallup
Linc NW
- Renton Technical College
YWCA of Seattle|King|Snohomish
- Seattle Central College
Seattle Education Access
- Community Colleges of Spokane
Spokane Area Workforce Development Council
- Tacoma Community College
Tacoma Community House
Tacoma Public Schools
- Walla Walla Community College
St. Patrick Catholic Church
- Wenatchee Valley College
SkillSource Wenatchee
Worksource Wenatchee Affiliate

Topics taught

- Technology Skills Pre-Assessment (given at the beginning of each quarter)
- Introduction to I-DEA
- Computer Skills
- Social Media and Learning
- Time Management
- Navigating Your Community
- The American Education System
- Libraries and Library Resources
- Money Management
- Health and Wellness
- Personal Inventory
- Career Exploration
- Cross Cultural Communications
- Study Skills
- Math Basics
- Budgeting and Consumer Economics
- Contemporary World Problems
- Creating Powerful Presentations
- Stress Management
- Interpersonal Communications
- Work Readiness
- Job Search and Interviewing
- Online Presentations
- Team Collaboration
- Environmental Issues
- Social Studies and Citizenship
- 21st Century Data
- Information Problem Solving
- Online Communications
- Business Websites
- Washington State History
- End of Quarter Presentations (given at the end of each quarter)
- Technology Skills Post-Assessment (given at the end of each quarter)

Sources:

1. "Investing in Effective Employment & Training Strategies," Seattle Jobs Initiative, January 2014.
2. Program year 2013-14 annual data, SBCTC.

