

Nebraska's adult education programs served more than 10,800 adults last year and will join a national effort celebrating Sept. 13-17 as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

Adult education and family literacy programs help adults improve their basic literacy and math skills as well as their oral and written English.

Many adults go on to test for a GED diploma, the equivalent of a high school diploma, once they complete their adult education programs.

"Nebraska's adult education programs served 10,827 adults last fiscal year and more than half of the state's 17 programs have waiting lists for their services," said Vicki Bauer, state Adult Education program director.

Bauer said Nebraska's 33 testing centers span the state, offering easier access to adults who have completed their instruction and are ready to take the GED tests.

The goal, she said, is to help adults improve their skills to prepare them for post secondary education or vocational training so they qualify for jobs and can better support themselves and their families.

The U. S. Congress declared Sept. 13-17 National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

A national survey of adults showed that more than 93 million American adults have basic or below basic literacy skills that limit their ability to advance at work, receive an education, help their children with schoolwork, interact with health care professionals and prevent them from participating in their communities.

Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Western Nebraska Community College and Crete

Public Schools are among those programs that have planned events Sept. 13-17 to promote adult education.

For more information about Nebraska's adult education programs or how to earn a GED, call toll free 1-877-EARNGED or visit the Nebraska Department of Education's website at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/ADED/home.htm>.