

# Project Getting Results Educating Adults in Texas (Project GREAT): 2005-06

EA06-192-4

## At a Glance

**P**roject Getting Results Educating Adults in Texas (Project GREAT) is a federally funded program designed to provide professional development to Adult Education and Family Literacy Program teachers in the northern region of Texas. Service delivery areas in the northern region include Cleburne, Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, and Weatherford Independent School Districts; Grayson County College; and the Region IX Education Service Center in Wichita Falls. To facilitate service delivery, the program contracts with school district consultants, regional service centers, colleges and universities, and other providers to train participants. The district's Adult Basic Education (ABE) Department managed the program.

### Evaluation Methodology

The 2005-06 evaluation focused on surveying trained teachers about the program. The survey asked teachers to examine Project GREAT's strengths and weaknesses, and to recommend improvements. The main items on the survey included the quality of training materials, workshop organization, trainers' knowledge of the program, application of theory and concepts discussed, training environment, and clarity of training-related objectives. The survey also asked participants to indicate the types of programs they taught and whether they were part-time or full-time instructors. An evaluator from Special Projects analyzed the data.

## FINDINGS

### Budget and Expenditures

The program's estimated budget for the 2005-2006 school year was \$384,000. Personnel salaries (53.5%), contracted services including program-related training (32.8%), and

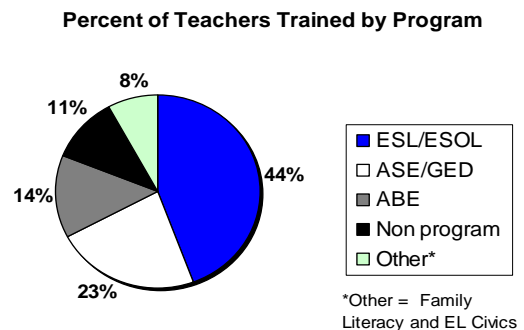
instructional materials (6.9%) accounted for more than 93% of the budgeted expenditures. Other operating and indirect costs accounted for 6% of the budgeted expenditures. The program allocated \$3,000 for evaluation.

### Program Outcomes

- A total of 1,274 (duplicate count) teachers received Project GREAT training. The teachers came from the following programs: English as a Second Language/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL/ESOL), Adult Secondary Education and General Education Development (ASE/GED), Adult Basic Education (ABE), Family Literacy, and English Language Civics (EL Civics). The teachers' quarterly attendance follows:

October 29, 2005-December 17, 2005	420
January 7, 2006-March 10, 2006	616
April 1, 2006-May 13, 2006	238

- The chart below summarizes the teachers trained by Project GREAT. Although ABE and Family Literacy teachers were the intended trainees, they comprised only about 20-22% of the teachers trained.



- The majority of participants were part-time teachers.
- Major training topics included:
  - ▶ ESL Instructional Strategies
  - ▶ Use of Pictures for Language and Literacy Development
  - ▶ Beginning Writing through Dictation
  - ▶ Portfolio and Journal Writing
  - ▶ Critical Thinking Skills
  - ▶ Being Money Smart
  - ▶ Interactive Activities
  - ▶ English for Mathematics
  - ▶ Grammar Games
  - ▶ Basic Math Concepts
  - ▶ Use of Excel to Teach Mathematics
  - ▶ Getting ESL Students Prepared for the Workforce
  - ▶ Teaching in a Differentiated Classroom
- Participants also attended program-related advisory committee meetings.
- Most survey respondents said the quality of materials used during the training was excellent, that the sessions were well organized, and the contents of the materials presented met the course's description.
- Respondents also said trainers possessed in-depth knowledge of the topics presented, emphasized the practical application of the theory and concepts to classroom situations, created positive learning environments, and clearly explained each training session's objectives.
- The respondents suggested that future training should focus on learning disabilities, classroom emergency rules, verb usage, teaching phonics and mathematics, graphic organizers, troubleshooting, and how to improve the program. Some teachers recommended that students who could neither read nor write be taught in their native languages.