



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 13, 2009

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**BOWIE-CASS ADULT EDUCATION COOPERATIVE RELEASES**  
**COUNTY ILLITERACY RATES**  
**FROM NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS;**  
**SCHEDULES NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**

**Texarkana, TX** – According to statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics released by the Bowie-Cass Adult Education Cooperative, 13% of Bowie County adults are illiterate and 15% are considered illiterate in Cass County. State statistics show that 19% of all adults in Texas cannot read.

In an effort to fight the illiteracy rate of Bowie and Cass counties, a General Education Development (GED) credential New Student Orientation will be held on Tuesday, November 17 and Wednesday, November 18. Orientations will be at 8:00 a.m. for day classes and 5:30 p.m. for evening classes in the TISD Academic Learning Center, 3201 Lincoln Avenue, for those interested in starting classes. All requirements and expectations of the GED program will be covered. Additional orientations are held throughout the year on the second Tuesday of every month.

Class hours are offered Monday thru Friday from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 – 3:30 p.m., as well as from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday thru Thursday. Classes are self-paced, flexible and free.

The Bowie-Cass Adult Education Cooperative has over a thirty-year history of helping adults receive basic and workplace skills through preparation for the General Education Diploma (GED) and entry skills for college. With over 1,200 students annually, the Bowie-Cass Adult Education program has consistently received gold-level recognition for student performance. Classes are offered across Bowie and Cass counties with Texarkana Independent School District serving as their fiscal agent.

GED classes are offered year-round during the morning, afternoon and evenings. Sites are located in Atlanta, DeKalb, Hooks, Hughes Springs, Linden, New Boston and Queen City. Texarkana sites include the TISD Academic Learning Center, Texarkana, Texas Housing Authority, Liberty Eylau School of

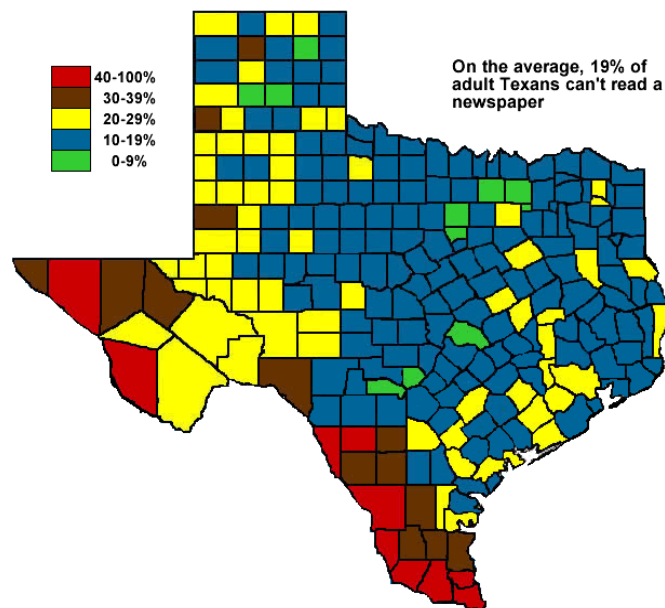
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Success, Literacy Council of Bowie & Miller Counties, Southwest Center, Texarkana Workforce Solutions, Theron Jones Early Literacy Center and the Women's Recovery Program. Correctional classes are provided at the Federal Correctional Institute and Bowie County Correctional Center.

For more information contact Mary Wakefield at 903.793.5632 ext. 1708 or at [mary.wakefield@txkisd.net](mailto:mary.wakefield@txkisd.net).

### Percentage by County of Illiterate Adult Texans

#### Basic Prose Literacy Skills (BPLS)



#### **Basic Prose Literacy Skills (BPLS)**

"Prose literacy is defined by reading materials arranged in sentences and paragraphs. Examples of prose literacy include newspaper articles, editorials and brochures. Adults who lack BPLS have skills that range from being unable to read and understand any written information to being able only to locate easily identifiable information. In short, commonplace prose text in English, but nothing more advanced. The percentage of those who lack BPLS reflects the magnitude of the adult household population at the lowest level of English literacy."

**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Dept. of Education, Institute of Education Sciences *January 2009 National Assessment of Adult Literacy Indirect County and State Estimate of the Percentage of Adults at the Lowest Literacy Level*

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009482.pdf>

<http://nces.ed.gov/naal/estimates/StateEstimates.aspx>