

South Dakota Department of Labor  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501  
[www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)

**For Immediate Release:** Monday, Sept. 13, 2010  
**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

## **National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Celebrated**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) invites citizens to recognize National Adult Education and Family Literacy week Sept. 13 – 17, as declared by Congress.

At 7 percent, South Dakota ranks second best among all states in low literacy. The national average is 12 percent.

“The Department of Labor strives to improve literacy to help develop a quality workforce,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “People with improved literacy advance further in the workplace and materially participate in their communities.”

Adult education and family literacy programs serve adult students who need to improve their basic literacy and math skills, improve their oral and written English, practice for the GED test to attain a high school equivalence degree, and prepare for community college or vocational training.

“The Department of Labor’s adult education and literacy programs served 2,644 students over the past year,” said Secretary Roberts. “In addition, 1,406 people earned their GED.”

Family literacy programs serve parents and their young children. The programs teach adults basic skills, English as a second language, and parenting skills; their children are provided with quality preschool programming.

Adult education and family literacy programs are available in 19 cities across South Dakota. For more information, visit the DOL website at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)