

Congressman Frank's answers.

1. I consider basic education a right at any age. Literacy and numeracy ability can have a large effect on an individual's economic wellbeing, and making available opportunities to develop these skills benefits both the student and society as a whole.

2. I believe that fully funding adult education programs would go a long way toward improving their functioning, and toward letting them grow to a point where waiting list issues would be eliminated. Placing a focus on locating classes near existing public transportation, or creating decentralized adult education centers in areas without sufficient public transit access, would help remove transportation barriers to attendance. Also, I am strongly in favor of increased funding for child care in its own right.

3. Given the level of community-specific decision making required in administering an education program, and my lack of specific expertise in that area, I believe that the best policy would be to fund demonstrably effective local agencies, rather than offering specific dictates of practice.

4. At all times, the overarching goal of adult education should be to provide every American citizen with the tools they need to support themselves and their families financially and, in turn, to contribute productively our economy.

5. I am a strong supporter of the Adult Education and Economic Growth Act, and have worked very closely with Congressman Hinojosa on this issue. As I indicated under question 2, I believe full funding for adult education is a critical step in ensuring the effective function of these programs.