



***Grow Your Own Teacher Candidates***  
**Cohort Profiles**  
**First-year statewide data**  
**November 2006**

The Grow Your Own teachers initiative is state law, with the goal of preparing 1,000 high quality teachers from non-traditional sources by 2016. The initiative received a \$1.5 million planning grant from the state legislature in 2005 and first-year implementation funding of \$3 million in 2006.

**CONSORTIA INFORMATION**

**Geographical regions** The data that follows represents 11 statewide GYO consortia (5 in Chicago plus the Nueva Generación pilot; the South Suburbs, Springfield, East St. Louis, Rockford, and the Quad Cities,). Each consortia is a partnership of a community organization, a 4-year higher education institution, usually a community college, and a school district(s) or group of schools. Of Illinois' 12 public universities, 7 are represented. **Teaching degrees being sought:** 4 elementary education; 2 bilingual education; 2 special education; 1 early childhood; and 1 secondary education.

**COHORT INFORMATION:**

Each consortia has recruited a cohort of non-traditional teacher candidates--parents, community leaders, and paraprofessionals—who will enter college this year. The following data on GYO candidates has been reported by all 11 consortia around the state.

**Total GYO teacher candidates, statewide:                    395**

**Educational backgrounds of cohort members.**

GED only:	23	6%
High school diploma only:	59	15%
Some college credits	258	65%
Ready for Basic Skills test:	55	14%

**Race/ethnicity:                    88% = African American and Hispanic**

African-American	203	51%
Hispanic	145	37%
White (non-Hispanic)	45	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander and Multi-racial/ethnic:	1 each	



**Gender:**

Women:	328	85%
Men	56	15%

**Age:**

20-30 years old:	84	21%
30-40 years old:	133	34%
40-50 years old:	135	34%
50 or older:	31	8%

**Family status.**

Single:	143	36%
Married:	184	47%
Dependent children at home:	212	54%

**Employment status.**

Homemaker:	30	8%
Employed part-time:	61	15%
Employed full-time:	284	72%

**Relationship to the eligible schools/community.**

Parent of children in the schools:	154	39%
Work in the schools:	143	36%
Volunteer in the schools:	100	25%
Member of the community org:	165	42%

This initiative is a partnership of the Illinois State Board of Education and Grow Your Own Illinois.