

News to Use

July 2004

Family literacy update

During May regional meetings, Cheryl King explained that KYAE had initially decided to establish family literacy enrollment as a second gateway to eligibility for performance incentive funding for the 2004-05 fiscal year. However, because of cuts in federal funding and unknowns regarding the state budget, KYAE is reconsidering that decision.

At the July 19 Council on Postsecondary Education meeting, Dr. King will discuss with council members the option of making family literacy enrollment one of the performance indicators that programs must meet to qualify for performance incentive funding. We will update providers on the status after that meeting.

KYAE is in the final stages of revising the Kentucky Family Literacy Performance Indicators for 2004-05. Their release has been delayed because we want to be diligent in using this year's (FY2004) data to set realistic indicators. Our plan is to send these revised indicators to you by the end of August. We thank you for your patience and will keep you abreast of any changes in our plans.

Family literacy is expected to be the major topic of discussion during regional meetings planned for August. (Dates and locations are being finalized.) Among issues to be discussed are:

- Family literacy evaluation – Thomas, Warren and Associates recently completed an evaluation of Kentucky's family literacy program and will issue the final report soon. The findings and recommendations will be discussed at the regional meetings.
- Family literacy program in correctional institutions – Some counties provide family literacy programs in their local county jails. Because of a variety of concerns centered on this service delivery method, KYAE will review the appropriateness of providing family literacy in a correctional institution. Adult educators and Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy staff will be invited to provide input for this important discussion.

AERIN update

Beginning with the 2004-05 fiscal year, providers must:

- Enter all 2004-05 personnel in the AERIN system using job titles consistent with information reported on recently submitted personnel worksheets.

- Report personnel changes to KYAE on a revised personnel worksheet and update AERIN within 10 days of changes. This requirement has been added to the KYAE Policy and Procedures Manual. Worksheets are available at <http://adulthood.state.ky.us/Forms.htm>.

KYAE will compare invoices with personnel entered in AERIN and may withhold payment if AERIN personnel records are not up to date.

Terry Tackett will discuss these requirements during data training sessions scheduled for July and August.

Program code update

At the recent KYAE regional meetings, providers were instructed to contact a workforce associate prior to delivering instruction and enrolling students in program codes 9 or 14. After further discussions among KYAE staff, it has been decided that with clearly defined guidelines in place, it is not necessary that KYAE staff be contacted for prior approval. Please refer to page four of the KYAE Policy Manual under Workforce Alliance/Workforce Services for allowable activities.

National literacy group cites work of KYAE as 'astounding success'

A national case study spotlighting Kentucky's progress in adult education was recently released by the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CAAL). The report focuses on the "astounding success" of Kentucky Adult Education, Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

"As a national model, the Kentucky system is fascinating and instructive in numerous ways," noted Gail Spangenberg, president of CAAL. She singled out five examples of Kentucky's innovations:

- an explicit statewide policy that provides a seamless transitions from adult education to postsecondary;
- a learner-centered and competency-based adult education program;
- a large investment in workforce education;
- community college presidents who support adult education; and
- an array of linkages between adult education and the community college systems.

"This report is a testimony to the good work across the state by all adult educators," said Cheryl King, vice president for KYAE. "It is also a testimony to

Kentucky's innovative approach that links adult education to outcomes important to adults – continued education that prepares people for employment in the knowledge-based economy.”

Tom Layzell, president of CPE, said, “We are pleased that Kentucky is being recognized. This report validates Kentucky’s adult education reform efforts.”

The paper is available at the CAAL Web site at <http://www.caalusa.org>. At the home page, scroll down the left column to publication item (4).

Kentucky State Plan

The U.S. Department of Education has approved Kentucky’s revised State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy, including performance measures for 2004-05. The State Plan is posted at <http://adulthood.state.ky.us/> on the Forms/Resources page. Performance measures, which will be contained in 2004-05 contracts, can be found in Chapter 5.

June Council Report

The June Council on Postsecondary Education Activity Report is available at http://www.cpe.ky.gov/aboutus/documents/activity_report_200406.pdf. The report contains several articles of interest to adult educators.

CPE regional forums on the horizon

In 1998, the Council on Postsecondary Education established the public agenda called for in the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (House Bill 1). The public agenda, *2020 vision: An Agenda for Kentucky’s system of Postsecondary Education*, links advanced education to statewide priorities and economic growth in the 21st century. It explains how students, graduates, employers, the education community and the general public benefit from postsecondary education.

Over the next several months, CPE will review the public agenda and strategic implementation plans. Toward that end, a series of regional forums is planned for September and October to discuss the needs of the Commonwealth – its communities, employers, workers and general citizenry – and what the postsecondary community can do to respond. As these dates are determined, adult educators will be invited to attend.

Computer-based OPT training scheduled

As discussed at the May regional meetings, KYAE has purchased a statewide user's license for the computer-based GED Official Practice Test (OPT) and is scheduling training sessions for the last week in July. The half-day workshops will be offered twice daily in five regions. The schedule will be posted on the PD Calendar as soon as details are finalized.

Workshops will be limited to 12-30 attendees, depending on the site and the number of computers available. The computer-based OPT manual and CD will be released only to workshop attendees (one manual and CD per county except as noted below).

One instructor from each county may attend the software training, except for the following counties: Jefferson, up to five instructors; Fayette, up to three instructors; Daviess, McCracken, Pike and Warren, up to two.

Assessment quality workshops scheduled

Want to learn assessment strategies that will improve student results? If so, a new assessment quality workshop is for you.

The workshop will assist instructors with assessment and goal setting and address frequently asked questions about the TABE 9/10. The workshop will also highlight the new GED handbook for adult educators. Instructors are encouraged to attend and will be awarded three PD credits.

The workshop will help you answer the following questions:

- Is it permissible to test a student with a different TABE level? Can you pretest with a TABE 7 and post-test with a TABE 9?
- What if a student is pre-testing and needs more time?
- Should failing to follow the examiner's manual negate any level gains reported?
- KYAE doesn't recognize the ORAL LAS, but the student doesn't understand enough English to take the Reading and Writing LAS. What do you do and how do you document it?
- There have been several no-shows for the GED exams, how can you correct this?
- How many days does it take to register a student for the GED in your area? What about students requesting special accommodations?

For registration information, contact Leah Disponett at Leah.Disponett@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 116. The schedule follows; workshops are half-day, from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

- July 9: Ashland at KEDC Headquarters
- August 20: Lyon County Adult Education
- August 23: Pulaski County Adult Education
- August 27: Elizabethtown Tourism Center
- September 9: Perry County Adult Education Center (Hazard)
- September 14: Frankfort, exact location TBD

Bluegrass Challenge program recognized

The Kentucky National Guard's Bluegrass ChalleNGe program recently received national recognition for its program that assists at-risk youth by instilling in them a core of values, skills, education and self-discipline. KYAE funds a Bluegrass ChalleNGe adult education program at Fort Knox.

On May 6, Program Director Col. John W. Smith, Instructor Troy Hampton and Cadet James Orange flew to Washington, D.C., to receive the coveted LTG. Emmit H Walker Academic Award given by the USO. This award goes to the program that best develops its corpsmembers' educational opportunities and skills by increasing grade levels in reading and mathematics, attaining a GED or high school diploma and pursuing higher education.

Bluegrass ChalleNGe has noted that its success would not have been possible without the financial and logistical support of KYAE and the Department for Technical Education, which funds technical education for the program's cadets.

Kentucky Virtual Library

Accessible through www.kyvae.org, the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) provides a wealth of information for adult educators. Information of interest includes:

- Kentucky Adult Education Resource Database (Ky AERD) and LINCS database provide resources to support adult educators. Ky AERD resources are selected by adult educators and include Web sites, curriculum guides, recommended reading and lesson plans.
- Novelist is an electronic advisory resource that can assist in finding fiction titles appropriate to a student's age, reading level and interests.
- ERIC provides access to published and unpublished sources on thousands of educational topics.
- "How to Do Research" tutorials are available for children and adults.
- For more information, call toll-free at 1-877-588-5288.

Graduation rates increase at Kentucky universities

Graduation rates at all eight Kentucky public universities have increased since postsecondary education reform began in 1998. CPE recently announced that the systemwide, six-year graduation rate climbed from 36.7 percent in 1998 to 45.3 percent in 2003, the most recent year data are available. In addition, seven of the eight universities posted increases over their 2002 rates.

“Kentucky’s investment in postsecondary education reform and its people is paying off,” said Tom Layzell, CPE president. “However, we still have our work cut out for us to reach the national average.” Layzell said it is imperative that Kentucky increase the number of citizens with baccalaureate and other degrees in order to attract businesses that will bring good jobs to the state.

“This is what postsecondary education reform is about – creating a better economy for Kentucky and better lives for Kentuckians,” he said.

Free GED Information Bulletin

This 16-page tabloid-style brochure provides general information about the GED testing program, the 2002 Series GED Tests, sample questions and the history of the program. The publication is designed for GED candidates and those who may need more information about the GED. (Item no: 251538, limit 500 per order; a shipping and handling charge of \$12.95 applies.) The bulletin may be ordered from GED Publications: www.acenet.edu/bookstore .

Valuable links

Health and literacy

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recently released a report titled “Literacy and Health Outcomes.” The full report is available at

<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/evrptpdfs.htm#literacy> . A summary is posted at <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcsums/litsum.htm> .

Youth in ABE

Read about youth in ABE in the newest issue of "Focus on Basics," available on the NCSALL web site at <http://ncsall.gse.harvard.edu> . (Scroll down on the home page and click on the Newest FOB box.)

Governor Fletcher’s new Web site

The Governor’s Office recently re-launched Governor Ernie Fletcher’s Web site with a new look and features. The site is at <http://governor.ky.gov> .

New U.S. DAEL Web site

The U.S. Division of Adult Education and Literacy has updated its Web site, which is available at

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/index.html> .