

KENTUCKY ADULT EDUCATION News To Use

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EXCITING NEWS:

See for Free continues ... and first-time testers can take first GED® module FREE for a limited time!

Well, isn't this great?

GED Testing Service® offers See for (Nearly) Free again

The Ready™ test promotion was such a success in October that GED Testing Service® is offering another one. This time, **the Ready™ test can be taken for \$1 per content area, January 26 through February 28th.** The promotional code will be on the student dashboard. Let your students know this opportunity is available and use it as an opportunity to bring new students into your program. You can help your students by using an institutional credit card to pay the \$1 per module fee for students who come to your center. Unfortunately, you may not use adult education funds to purchase a pre-paid card. **To stretch all our resources, use the GED Testing Service® promotion for the Ready™ test during the promotional time period – January 26 through February 28.**

Now, this is even better ...

See for Free continues through KYAE

In Kentucky, the Ready™ test has always been free for students in the adult education programs and has also been free for the adult education programs. KYAE has already purchased two rounds of Ready™ test vouchers for all programs. The first set of vouchers was distributed in January 2014 and the second set was distributed in June 2014. The vouchers were distributed by KET. Both sets of vouchers will expire at about the same time. The January 2014 batch will expire in early January 2015. The June 2014 batch will expire in late December 2015. KYAE has already entered into discussions to purchase a third round of Ready™ test vouchers for our programs.

While we want you to use the Ready™ test vouchers wisely, **we do want you to use them. The Ready™ test is the best diagnostic tool we have for determining if a student is ready for the GED® test.** Also, because it provides recommendations for targeted instruction, it should be used **early** in the instructional process and not reserved for an end-of-the-course assessment. It may help to think about it this way: If a colleague told you they had a curriculum product that would provide targeted instruction for each of your students, you would probably be willing to purchase it. Or, if we told you we had an instructor you could hire who would help your students make quick progress on the GED® test, you would probably want to hire that instructor. **Even though the Ready™ test costs money, it does both of those things – helps students make progress through targeted instruction and saves instructional resources. So, use it wisely, but use it.**

Good news!

Update on \$10 testing

KYAE's \$10 testing program continues; **3,700 of the \$20 vouchers remain.** The vouchers are available for any adult education student who has passed the Ready™ test in a particular module and is testing in that module for the first time. To obtain the voucher for your student, email the student name, date of birth, county program name, and content area modules passed to GED@KY.gov. As long as you make your request by 3:30 p.m. Eastern

3,700 GED® testing \$20 module vouchers remain!

Original number of vouchers = 8,500

~~8,500~~

~~4,250~~

STILL AVAILABLE:

3,700 \$20 GED® testing vouchers

time on a business day you will receive a response the same day.

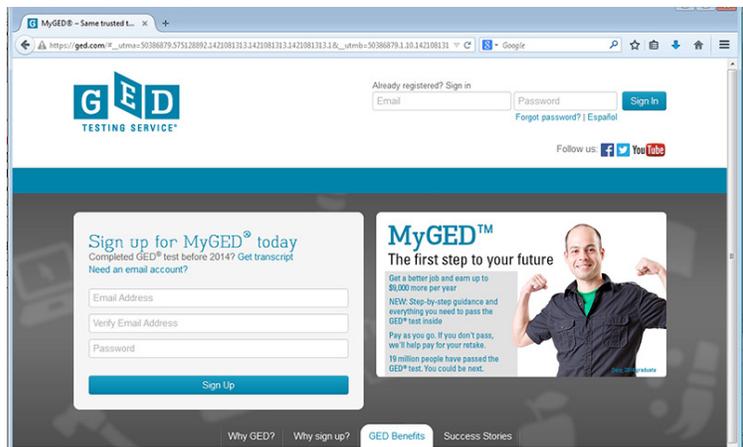
Remember, no voucher is needed for retaking a module. **GED Testing Service® is continuing to discount the cost of retakes to \$10 per module.**

WHOA! Awesome!

GED Testing Service® offers promotion to make first module FREE for first-time KY test-takers



To make the deal even better, GED Testing Service® is offering a promotion January 26 through February 28 that will make it free for first-time Kentucky test-takers to take their first GED® test module. GED Testing Service® is offering a \$10 promotion code to first-time test takers for their first module. This promotion will combine with Kentucky's \$20 vouchers to make it free for first-time test-takers to take their first GED® test module. GED Testing Service's promotional code will appear on the dashboard for eligible students. First-time students must schedule their first test by February 28 and must take the first test by March 31 to receive the promotional discount, which will start January 26. **Downloadable materials to help you market this promotion will soon be available on the KYAE Marketing Materials page at kyae.ky.gov.**



GED® testing at jails

There are currently 14 county jails that are Pearson VUE testing centers for the purpose of offering the GED® test – with more being added monthly. In addition, four public testing centers have mobile sites that can test at local jails. All 12 institutions in the KY Department of Corrections are GED® testing centers, as well as two juvenile detention centers.

Unfortunately, the jails were slow to begin the process of adding the 2014 GED® test and then they encountered delays because of a large number of centers nationally trying to get authorized during the first half of 2014. GED Testing Service®/Pearson VUE was also still learning about the unique circumstances of testing in correctional centers.

We have now worked out most issues with testing at our jails in Kentucky. Where Internet access is available inside the correctional classroom, the adult educator can administer the Ready™ test. Our office can advise the testing center about how to proceed if the inmate account has been created at MyGED and the Ready® test administered through MyGED. If no Internet access is available inside the correctional classroom, the Ready® test has to be administered by the Test Administrator. GED Testing Service® is looking at a better solution for this and we will keep you apprised of any changes made to that process.

Now that the 2014 rush is over, it is a much faster process for any jails that would like to add GED® testing. [Click here for information sheets](#) that outline the options available to jails and the steps to become a Pearson VUE Testing Center if that is the option the jail chooses.

How to get your data (GED® Manager)

Access to GED® Manager has been given to all KYAE program directors. This is a GED Testing Service® tool that allows you to see all Ready™ test and GED® test scores for your students. You can also link directly to the student score report to view and print the instructional recommendations for the student.

However, your students must grant permission for your program to access their scores. Please have students do this at MyGED by selecting your program on the score page or by editing their profile. This is a much more efficient method of viewing student results than trying to log in to individual student accounts. And since all your students and their email addresses appear in one list, you can follow up with students that are ready to test, but have not yet scheduled, or those who may have dropped out of instruction.

We can now add some additional staff to access GED® Manager. The program director can request an additional person per program to have access to GED® Manager. If a program has multiple counties, please add one – two additional people per county that you would like to have access to GED® Manager. To submit additional personnel for GED® Manager Access, email the names and email addresses to GED@KY.gov with the request for GED® Manager Access in the subject line. Please submit your additional names by February 1.

In honor of Veterans Day, veteran George Washington Combs, Jr., shared his military experiences with a Scott County Adult Education class. He encouraged students to earn an education and to remember the sacrifices veterans have made for the United States.



Don't let snow days leave your students in the cold ... Have a plan!



The weather outside is frightful ... and that can cause school closings and students' inability to attend class. In order to keep inclement weather from negatively impacting your students' progress, **please consider using the checklist below to help you guide your students.**

Do your students text? You can stay in contact with them via text without sharing your own phone number by using the free service provided at <https://www.remind.com/>. Using this service will allow you to send out messages via Internet that will go out to students via their text service. They must enter their information at this site to "opt in" to receiving your messages. This could provide an additional venue for sharing information about inclement weather or to communicate about snow day assignments.

* * * * * Snow Day Plan Checklist * * * * *

- Identify which students have devices or access to them.
- Identify which tools you will use, e.g., Edmodo, Google, etc.
- Determine how students will gain access and learn how to use them.
- Identify if you can communicate with students via email to alert them that they can access the tools.
- Identify self-directed online tools that they can use to practice or reinforce learning, e.g.,
 - [Khan Academy](#)
 - [GED®](#)
 - [Fast Forward](#)
 - Ed Ready: kyae.edready.org offers KYAE students a personalized mathematics study plan aligned to their chosen educational goal (GED®, Compass or KYOTE). Each math module consists of a video presentation that introduces the concept, an explanation from Khan Academy, and opportunities for independent practice that lead to mastery of the module.
 - [Wonderopolis](#): a great site for informational text. It would be an interesting way for families to connect on a snow day although it is not just a family site. Each day there is informational text, a video to capture attention, vocabulary and comprehension questions. There are suggestions for ways to extend learning. There is a text-to-speech feature so all levels can use this site – what a great thing for those low-level students!
- Involve students in planning and communication by writing out a contingency plan.
- In class, address the boundaries of professional netiquette. Here are two sets that could be used:
learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/
education.com/reference/article/netiquette-rules-behavior-internet/

Cash prizes available for top KYAE Lesson Bank submissions!

CCR Standards-Based Instruction is gaining momentum in adult education programs across the Commonwealth! KYAE urges instructors to share their standards-based lessons with their peers through the KYAE Lesson Bank, <http://kyaelessons.blogspot.com/>. To review the process, [go here](#).

To kick off the Lesson Bank and build a collection of high-quality lessons, **KYAE will hold a competition for the best KYAE lesson of 2014-15. The individual who creates the KYAE Outstanding Lesson of 2014-15 will receive a prize of \$500;** a banner and bragging rights for a full year will go to the author's learning center. **Top finalists for the outstanding lesson will receive \$100 each.**

Submissions for the competition will be accepted until April 1, 2015. In April, the lesson reviewers/coaches will identify the top finalists. These finalists will review each other's lessons and select, from among themselves, KYAE's Outstanding Lesson for 2014-15.

The KYAE Lesson Bank is a private site; log in credentials are in the November 3 announcement found on the [Announcements/News](#) and [Professional Development](#) page of www.kyae.ky.gov.

Please submit student success stories!

CELEBRATE SUCCESS!



Stories from Kentucky GED graduates

Due to the great popularity of the Celebrate Success student success story campaign last year, we are seeking more stories about Kentucky GED® graduates! These stories will be posted on the [KYAE Facebook page](#), which has more than 900 followers. **The deadline for**

submission is Friday, January 30.

When your county's student is featured, your county name will be shared as well. This is an easy and excellent opportunity to spotlight your program and show your community pride – as well as to recognize students' hard work and inspire others to achieve their goals.

Because we are working toward alleviating fears about the new GED® test, please consider including your most recent graduates in this effort.

Please have your selected student(s) complete the questionnaire [found here](#). Instructions for submission may be found at the bottom of the questionnaire. If you have questions, please contact Missy Brownson at missy.brownson@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 123.

NOW AVAILABLE:

Applications for Active Learning in Adult Numeracy (ALAN) Cohort 3 Fractions

Due to the demand for another ALAN fractions training, KYAE's ALAN Cohort 3 will focus on fractions rather than operations. (See updated description in the current [PD Handbook](#), p. 30.) Participation in ALAN is by application only, and **KYAE is now accepting cohort 3 applications.** Applications and more information are available on the announcements page of the KYAE website. **Only 20 instructors will be accepted so be sure to get your application in before the January 28 deadline.**

Led by curriculum and professional developer Steve Hinds, a group of 17 math instructors from 14 KYAE programs recently completed ALAN Cohort 2 which focused on a series of Measurement/Geometry. In addition to Steve's set of lessons on this topic, the participants received measurement tools for use with their students as they explored the concepts included in this series of lessons. When instructors were asked if they would recommend the ALAN training to their peers, their response was an enthusiastic and unanimous, "Yes!" Here are a few of their comments:

- "I think I got more from this class than anything I can remember being involved in. Steve provided real strategies and every minute was on task. It is very important to see teaching and learning in action and Steve allowed that to happen."
- "I love the pace and the way the lessons are presented. I have shared some of the lessons with my co-workers and they really liked them too."
- "It affected how I teach all subjects. Now I allow more room for student-led learning and try to ask for more from my students. It makes it more fun and engaging for the students."



- "I have bragged to everyone I come across how much I enjoyed this training. The material is sensational and never did I feel I was wasting my time learning one little concept I could take with me. I could not wait to get back to my students and "try" the lessons out on them. I have picked up a few things from previous trainings that I still use, but this was great from beginning to end."

If you teach fractions, ALAN Cohort 3 with Steve Hinds may be for you!

MONEY MATTER\$

Fiscal operations update: Budgets, audits, invoices and more

Upcoming key dates to remember:

- **Last day to amend your budget-March 31, 2015***
- **Last day to invoice-July 17, 2015**
- **Audits are due to KYAE-March 31, 2015**

***When making amendments ,be mindful of the 5% maximum for Operations and the 15% for Admin.**

REMINDERS:

Policy change for spending - Equipment and Supplies – “No more than 15% of a program’s core services budget shall be spent on instructional materials and supplies in the last quarter of the program year. Eighty-five percent (85%) of instructional materials and supplies shall be expended by March 31. Any amendments shall be initiated by March 31.” For questions please contact Terry Pruitt (terry.pruitt@ky.gov) or Ashley Smither (ashley.smither@ky.gov) at KYAE.

Annual Audits – Those counties selected for audit will begin that process in the spring. You will need to have all your records organized and accessible. If your program is selected for audit you will be contacted by the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to set up a time to schedule and discuss the audit.

GOOD NEWS! No budget cuts expected

The news from the Office of the Budget Director is good – which means it is likely that Kentucky Adult Education will not suffer any budget cuts this year.

According to the office, Kentucky’s General Fund receipts rose 0.5% this December compared to last December, an increase of \$5.0 million.

Resources for college-bound students



KET College Financial Aid Call-In 2015

On Monday, January 26, at 9 p.m. Eastern/8 p.m. Central, Kentucky Educational Television (KET) is broadcasting a special call-in program about college financial aid. Questions can be submitted prior to the program on Twitter ([@EducationKET](https://twitter.com/EducationKET)) and on KET’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KET.

KASFAA offering College Goal Kentucky event throughout the state

Through May 2015, the Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (KASFAA) is offering College Goal Kentucky sessions throughout the state. College Goal Kentucky is a statewide charitable program that provides free information and assistance to Kentucky families applying for financial aid. The initiative mobilizes financial aid professionals from Kentucky colleges and universities to help college-bound students and their families complete the FAFSA.

When will College Goal Kentucky be coming to your area? [Click here](#) to find out!

What can KHEAA do for your students?

Want to see what the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) can do for your students? Find your local regional outreach counselor [here](#) and discover all that KHEAA offers.

Ability to Benefit has been partially reinstated

Previously, a student who enrolled in college the first time on or after July 1, 2012, must have had a high school or GED® diploma or must have been homeschooled to receive Title IV aid. The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act reinstates an ability-to-benefit (ATB) alternative to that requirement, allowing students enrolled in certain programs without a high school or GED® diploma access to student aid funds, retrospective, starting July 1, 2014.

However, the bill also contains a Pell Grant limitation for new ATB students beginning July 1, 2015. Students who enroll for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, will only be eligible for the discretionary Pell maximum (currently \$4,860) as opposed to the combined discretionary and mandatory Pell maximum, scheduled to be \$4,830 for the 2015-16 award year. While this language grandfathers in currently enrolled ABE students who can receive the Pell maximum, it will add some additional complexity for future, newly enrolled ATB students.

A student in Annie Adams’ physical science class in the Boyd County Adult Education program takes notes during an experiment in which students attempted to make Mountain Dew glow.



WIOA update and resource page

As shared in previously distributed information, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014. As shared by the U. S. Department of Labor, “WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.”

WIOA Update

According to information obtained from the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) by the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE), “WIOA establishes an aggressive timeframe for the Departments of Labor and Education to publish a set of regulations for implementation ... While we continue to work toward completion of this important and complex proposal, the publication of the proposed regulations is currently anticipated to occur in Spring 2015, rather than January 18, 2015.”

WIOA Resources

Want to know more about WIOA? You may access multiple resources on WIOA at <http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/wioa.htm>.

How is your program using EdReady?

Susan Jollay with **Daviess, Ohio and McLean Counties**

says instructors begin their EdReady class with “questions from the students, which are explained to the group instead of just to the individual. Our lab is equipped with a SmartBoard to allow for student interaction. Students proceed through the software at their own pace. They like the variety of instructional methods available in the program and the fact that they can navigate in any order they want.”

In **Nelson County, Karen Scout** has been using EdReady as both an instructor and a student. “One of our students attained his GED and will be pursuing courses at the community college ... My student and I both completed the EdReady COMPASS pre-test, and now we are both making our way through the trigonometry lessons ... The EdReady sequence of warmup, presentation, worked examples, practice, and review work well.”

Regina French from **Bath County** says, “I have been using EdReady with my students since it launched in September, mostly for GED but some for Compass. At first, when I checked the reports for student time in the modules, I did not see any study time, only test time ... I gave students an introduction to EdReady and showed them where they could find the study plan ... My students like using EdReady to help them learn how to do the math. I am seeing progress for students who use the resources before mastering a module ... If an instructor does not know how to use EdReady, it is not hard to learn.”



Shawn Wrenn in **Bourbon County** has used EdReady with her SmartBoard. “We covered three topics in the fraction unit during class. The students then logged into their account and completed the mastery questions with no problem.”

Hardin County program director **Diane Kelley** puts all her students on EdReady from the beginning. “In my classroom, my students are introduced to EdReady the very first day of class. We use it to supplement our classroom instruction and provide an excellent distance learning opportunity ... You guys know me, if I do not believe the program will help my students, I will not encourage my students to use it. There is not a class/lesson that goes by without me reminding my students about EdReady and I have incorporated its use in my lessons.”

However you may want to utilize this online math curriculum - whether as a distance learning math program, as a supplement in your classroom or to increase your own mathematics knowledge – **KYAE programs enjoy free, unlimited usage through December of 2015, and every county has an EdReady administrator that can track usage.** Later this month, KYAE will again offer a webinar on the features of EdReady. For further information about implementing EdReady, contact Gayle Box, gayle.box@ky.gov, 502-573-5114, ext. 353.

✓ Check It Out! • FREE online resources for instruction

<https://www.newsela.com> Have you ever wanted to teach a lesson on a certain text but wished the text was written at a different complexity level for some of your students? [Newsela](https://www.newsela.com) may be your answer. This website builds literacy skills with multiple news articles every day – each being available at five reading levels. Choose an article on a topic of interest, then adjust the complexity of the text by choosing the appropriate reading level. It’s free to sign up.

<https://www.illustrativemathematics.org/> Created by one of the writers of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, Illustrative Mathematics offers student tasks aligned to the standards. The purpose of the site is to share with instructors “carefully vetted resources” developed by teachers to help students understand math and acquire the skills to use it. The search feature makes it easy to find student tasks designed to meet the demands of a particular standard. Sign up for free and use one of these interesting tasks in your next math lesson. KYAE would like to thank Brian Thomas, Daviess County, for making us aware of this site.