

Overview of the Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) Content Standards Project

A primary task for the Curriculum and Instruction Unit has been to develop Adult Education Content Standards in alignment with Kentucky K-12 and college readiness standards. To address the need for increased math attainment, the decision was made to begin the project by developing content standards for mathematics, thereby resulting in this current version. This project continues the commitment of KYAE's quest for excellence. Most recently, Senate Bill 1 (March 26, 2009) called upon the Kentucky Department of Education, along with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, to plan and implement "the comprehensive progress for the revision of K-12 to college entry-level course content standards." At this time, the Kentucky Adult Education Content Standards remains in draft form because of changes that may come due to the guidelines stated in Senate Bill 1.

The KYAE Adult Education Content Standards Project has set into motion a way to measure student progress, identify required knowledge and skills for college and the workforce, guide instructional strategies and help with the development of curriculum to support student learning. Standards-based education offers a systemic approach to continuous improvement and higher student outcomes. According to *A Process Guide for Establishing State Adult Education Content Standards* by the American Institutes for Research and the U.S. Department of Education (page 3), developing and implementing standards are a means to:

- raise expectations
- build a set of goals and vocabulary
- improve curriculum, instruction and assessment to reflect best practices
- support instruction with targeted professional development
- teacher accountability for providing high quality instruction and for strengthening assessment practices
- state goals and align them with those from other departments, agencies and organizations
- raise awareness and community visibility and, thereby, increase the commitment to the programs and students

Programs are encouraged to use the Kentucky Content Standards as a guide. The vision for the Kentucky Content Standards is to provide the basis for planning, delivering, monitoring and improving academic instruction throughout the Commonwealth.