

Conference Call
Adult Basic and Literacy Education
July 14, 2009

Updates

Data Quality Conference room release will be August 14th. Please bring a team!
Travel, lodging and meals reimbursed.

- Art Ellison-developing a grass roots effort for state funding.
- Standards-the guide to instructional practice
- MCIS-developing a career pathway
- Distance learning
- CAELA-job embedded professional development
- Volunteers-making the community work for you
- MABLE

Grant Award has been received, and it reflects the 10% cut that was anticipated.
Budget sheets can be submitted according to the tentative amounts that were sent.

Goal of the Conference Call

- Present assessment policy modifications for immediate dissemination to all staff,
- Uniform collection procedures will begin immediately (effective July 1, 2009), and
- Give programs opportunity to plan for any necessary changes in instructional delivery.

Assessment Policy Overview

- Policy was approved June 30, 2009 (attached letter).
- Policy is codified; standardized accountability procedures and uniform data collection for measuring education gain and reporting are now in place.
- MABLE updates are required for the student information system to match policy.
 - Enter data according to policy as MABLE catches up.
- Policy changes are being required of all the states.
 - State directors have shared the concerns of the field with OVAE, and
 - OVAE has reviewed Table 4 of the NRS that documents the new benchmarks are achievable.

New Language

Assessment Training

- Section H: Train-the-trainer model for TABE
 - If don't have a trainer contact a program near you for training.
 - Remember to order training booklets and submit names of trained staff to the state.
 - OPI must provide yearly assessment training and program staff is required to attend.

- Section D: BEST Plus
 - The state will provide the training.
- Section I: Use of accommodations
 - Refer to Administration Guide, Appendix A.
 - Students requesting accommodation other than category one listed in the appendix must provide verification from the appropriate professional.
 - When students self-report a category one, document and maintain a record of the accommodation in the student file.
 - Programs are responsible for submitting a list of all disabled students and the type of accommodations provided to the state. (dates to be announced)
 - State will monitor during site visits.

- Section G: Post testing administration
 - Post testing should take place after 60 hours or the completion of one continuous term of instruction; MABLE will be changed accordingly; but the rule is effective immediately (More information on a continuous term of instruction will be forth coming to define, it isn't any random break in service)
 - Send 2009-2010 calendar to OPI by July 24, 2009. A definition on a term of instruction will be based on the calendar review.
 - No post testing exceptions (leaving the program, making significant gains, progress checks, student requests, or being a GED Online student are not allowable).
 - Use other formative tests for progress checks to monitor student learning.
 - Data entry folks can no longer check the validation error box if you post test prior to 60 hours. Directors must check the box and write a reason for post testing outside 60 hours. Directors must also sign a post test waiver for any student tested prior to 60 hours. Waivers must be kept in the student's file, which will be reviewed during onsite monitoring. Exception should be made only for **unusual** circumstances.
 - Validity reports will be run by the state three times per year to verify programs are adhering to the testing requirements.

New Primary Area of Instruction Policy (PAI)

- In the event the student wants instruction in a specific area, the instructor can declare the PAI after reviewing the three pretests with the student and counseling them to make an informed decision.

Programming Updates Aligned With Existing Language

- Test scores are valid for one year
 - 3 locators, 3 pretests PAI is identified
 - Must choose a PAI to proceed (right now you see red font)
 - New baseline after one instructional term (one year)
 - All test during an instructional year will be considered a post test

- Students continuing after July 1 of a new program year will have their EFL on that date be their starting point for the program year.
- Home page notice on 50 (soon to be 60) hours of instruction is not tied to the PAI, it just means the student has been there 60 hours.
 - Programs must monitor what areas the student is tested in, and
 - Nothing in policy addresses cumulative 60 hours before you post test in another content area.
- Retesting should not occur before 6 months.

Moving Forward With the New Language

- Table 4 shows that we had over 60 hours per person in all EFL areas except ASE low, ASE high, and ABE intermediate high.
- Table 4 A only ASE low is less than 60 hours.
- Question for the new program year:
 - How can we keep folks interested that make significant gains prior to 60 hours?
 - Can we embed more post secondary prep? Employment skills?
 - Can we add motivation through peer tutoring?
 - How can we use the new MCIS tool?
 - How will we change our outreach and advertising?
 - How will we transition from the focus on capturing any education gain to motivating and retaining students?
 - How will distance learning fit into the new paradigm? Upcoming changes will be announced.
 - How can we embrace this and positively impact teaching and learning?