

Program Directors' Meeting
January 28, 2009
Helena, MT

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

- Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Shared facts on the mission of adult education, the significance of the GED, and data that validates our efforts (dispelled myths and misunderstandings)

State-of-the-State

- Described the purpose of the meeting
 - Identified the challenges and necessary action steps
 - Encouraged to use information presented to strengthen existing programs
 - Encouraged to use desk monitoring to track where are with meeting performance targets
- Facts
 - Enrollment increased approximately 17% in 2007-08
 - 64% of students with 12 or more hours 2008; 71% of students with 12 or more hours 2007
 - Conclusion:
 - ABLE embraced new policy (PAI, new assessments policy)
 - Consistent data validates program effectiveness was maintained
 - Negotiated percent of students achieving core goals increasing overtime, except retain employment
 - ABLE students achieving negotiated performance targets
 - ESL students not achieving performance targets in most EFL's
 - Performance targets must be reviewed throughout the program year (all programs should gear up for meeting state targets)
 - Formula for negotiated targets was discussed; needing a protocol for updating teachers on progress toward meeting the targets was discussed

Program Improvement-Theme for the Year

- Goal setting-priority
 - Increase number of students with employment and postsecondary goals by 5% in 2009
 - Goals must be achievable and mutually agreed upon by the teacher and the student and revisited throughout the students' time in the program

- Distributed Quarterly reports to share insights, program modifications (setting the stage for change), successes
- Report for second quarter due February 7, 2009
 - Update spreadsheet and respond to question 5
- GED Math Training Institute
 - CD given to every program
 - CD focused on commonly missed items and researched-based practice
 - LINCS
 - Guide in using the CD
 - Questions and Answers
 - Chats
 - Facilitated by Rose Steiner and Kathy Jackson (GED Training Institute participants)
- Leadership Academy Update
 - Program self-assessment
 - Teacher self-assessment
 - Manager self-assessment
 - Stakeholder self-assessment
- Distance Learning
 - Update from 12 providers
- Standards Development
 - Update from writing team members
 - Discussed time line and process for adoption
 - Discussed benefits (guide instruction, valued by education partners, increased professionalism, better prepare students for transitions, educate policy makers and stakeholders on ABLE mission)
 - Discussed the role of the directors in implementing use of standards
- Future Meetings/trainings
 - ESL Conference in April
 - TABE training
 - Spreadsheet/MABLE training

Breaking News

- Cumpulsory education bill
- Workforce Incentive Grant (building infrastructure in collaboration with Department of Labor and Office of Commissioner of Higher Education)
- Rapid Response
- New GED diploma; letter from Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction to be included with every diploma
- Monitoring Visits

State-of-the Local Programs

- Local data was passed out for reveiew

Assessment Policy Codified (Citation 34 CFR Part 462, Subpart D)

- Post test after 50 hours instruction
 - Consistent time frame according to policy
 - Discussed inappropriate use of TABE (including skills updates, measuring gain or loss, student request, etc.)
 - Formed task force to create post testing policy for supporting instructors in adhering to compliance

Formula Funding Applied to All Dollars

- Fluctuating federal dollars beginning 2009
- Reviewed work of task force
- Reviewed allocation spreadsheets to plan for next program year
- Discussed budgets sheets for next program year