



Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

ADULT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY FACTS

**FROM DENISE L. POTTMEYER, STATE DIRECTOR
ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION**

March 20, 2009

Midwest States Lose with New Census Funding Formula

States received their federal Estimated Adult Education State Award Allocations for FY 2010 late last week. Ohio's allocation of \$17,552,565 was reduced to \$15,917,185, a \$1.6 million dollar reduction.

The U.S. Department of Education has changed the data source for the number of qualifying adults used to determine the states' allocations. The U.S. Census Bureau has replaced the decennial long form, the previous source of data for many Federal education programs, with the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual population survey. As a result, the decennial data that had been used will no longer be available. The new ACS data sets will provide a more up-to-date and accurate estimate of the number of qualifying adults in each State. Data based on a three-year estimate will be used to mitigate any fluctuations created by using a data set based on only a one-year time period.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Education corrected an administrative error that occurred from FY 2003 – 2008 that incorrectly calculated the number of qualifying adults in the States. This involved excluding 16-19 year olds enrolled in school that had been erroneously included in the formula.

As a result of these two changes, Ohio's reduction was 10%, the maximum amount allowable per the hold-harmless requirement under Section 211(f)(1) of WIA, Title II, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. This will most likely result in reductions for FY 2011 if total appropriations are not increased.

We understand the shift in population to southern and western states has been a trend; however, the need for adult education in Ohio continues to remain high (1.2-1.5 million eligible adults). All of us need to continue to look for program efficiencies, partnerships and other funding sources as we work through these hard economic times.

Economic Stimulus Update

I had the honor of presenting with Gay Gilbert, Administrator in the Office of Workforce Investment at the U.S. Department of Labor, and Dan Miller, Deputy Director of Adult Education and Literacy at the U.S. Department of Education at the FY 2009 National Meeting for State Directors of Adult Education this week. The conversation addressed the topic “How can adult education contribute to – and benefit from – America’s Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)?” General WIA, Title I guidance on the ARRA was sent to the states on Wednesday according to Gay, so time is a critical factor in getting involved with your WIA, Title I partners.

Gay heard loud and clear that states’ adult education systems stand ready to partner to provide basic skills, GED preparation and ESOL services. The Department of Labor (DOL) is very interested in strategies that closely tie economic and workforce development, such as the Ohio Skills Bank and Stackable Certificate programs. The DOL will be hosting a series of webinars with the One-Stops to provide suggestions on partnerships and services that will lead to adults gaining training and employment. We encouraged Gay to send the message to the One-Stops that adult education is a critical partner. Packaging your ABE services with technical training (concurrent enrollment) and contextualized career-focused instruction using partnership models will most likely be eagerly received. She assured us that all partner agencies will be needed to meet the President’s goals, and that this is our opportunity to show that we can be successful.

We will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

ABLE Grant Update

Intent to Apply and Request for Readers

As part of the grant process, agencies were asked to submit two pieces of information: the Intent to Apply and the Request for Grant Readers. Both of these documents are important in the competitive grant process and are still required to be submitted. The initial deadline for these documents was March 20, 2009. If you have already submitted the documents, you do not need to resubmit them. If you have not submitted the documents, you will have time since we are extending this deadline.

The new deadline for these documents will be two weeks from the date the grant is reposted. This will allow agencies to read through the revised grant. Both documents will be reposted on the grant web site when it opens up again. All Applicants are **required** to submit the name and contact information for at least one potential grant reader. The grant reading activity will take place in Columbus, Ohio. The date for the reading will be announced as soon as possible once the grant is reposted.

We anticipate the due date for the competitive grants to be no earlier than six weeks from the posting date. We will inform you of new information as soon as it is available.

Update on ABE/ASE Standards Revision

The ABE/ASE Standards and Benchmarks for math, reading and writing are being revised during this fiscal year. The goal of the revision project has been to: strengthen Ohio's ABE/ASE content standards and to ensure alignment of the benchmarks with the Basic and Advanced Stackable Certificate competencies which were aligned with the College Readiness Expectations. This integration of the Stackable Certificate competencies will result in one new set of ABE/ASE content standards.

Phase 1, revising of the content standards, is now complete. Phase 2, content verification, has begun. During this phase, field input will be requested. Please assist in this vital process, if you are asked. Once the feedback from the field is received, a content finalization panel will produce the final versions and polish the content. This phase is expected to be completed sometime in May.

When the standards and benchmarks are finalized, they will be released to the field for use. The release date is to coincide with the new fiscal year starting **July 1, 2009**. If they are finalized before this date, we will send them to the field.

We want to thank all of the many volunteers who have assisted in this project. And in anticipation of your assistance, we want to thank you for your valuable input.

Math Training Opportunities

Math is a critical issue in adult education. Our math assessment survey provided a clear indication that we need to move beyond the preconceived notion that the GED is "fractions, decimals and percents." In reviewing the results of the survey, it was clear that the areas in need of the most training were Geometry and Algebra. In response, the State ABE Program, in conjunction with the Math Task Force, facilitated by OLRC, has developed a math training opportunity for all ABE teachers in Ohio. We now have experienced trainers available to help all ABE staff in Ohio become more confident and competent in teaching math.

There is **no cost** to the program. We would like participation from all teachers who teach math in your program. **Free materials** will be provided to participants! These site-based trainings can accommodate up to 12 attendees. Collaboration with neighboring programs is encouraged. Programs should register for these interactive workshops through the OLRC site at: <http://literacy.kent.edu/math>

The four interactive trainings focus on Algebra, Geometry, GED Math and Problem Solving. They are each approximately two (2) to three (3) hours in length.

For more information, contact Nancy Markus at nmarkus@literacy.kent.edu

Transitions to Higher Level Math Workshop

There is a great opportunity for those of you who teach mathematics. A **Statewide Math Day is scheduled for April 24, 2009, at the Old Worthington Library**. The topic is "Statewide Math

Workshop: Transitions to Higher Level Math.” This interactive workshop will cover content beyond the GED including the content within the Advanced Skills Stackable Certificate.

Please note: Participants MUST be familiar with basic algebra concepts such as integers and linear equations in the slope-intercept form. This is not a beginner's workshop. If you are unsure if this is the workshop for you, please contact nmarkus@literacy.kent.edu.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the session will start promptly at 9:30 a.m. This is a full day session that will end at 3:30 p.m. There is a strict limit of 30 participants, so register as soon as possible at www.ohioable.org!

Spring 2009 OAAACE Event

OAAACE is pleased to announce a spring event which will be held on Thursday evening, *April 30th and Friday, May 1st, 2009*, at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington, Ohio.

An evening social will be hosted by the OAAACE Board, and a full one-day professional development opportunity featuring Ann Anzalone on the topic of “*Transitioning Adult Students*” will be offered on Friday. The evening social will begin at 6 p.m. on April 30th, and Friday starts with a registration and breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on May 1st. The silent auction and Scholarship luncheon, along with OAAACE’s annual business meeting, highlight the Friday events.

The registration fee is \$70 for OAAACE members and \$85 for non-members. The Ohio ABLE Resource Center Network is offering a one-day stipend of \$70.00 for eligible attendees for Friday, May 1st.

The Doubletree Hotel is offering a single or double room for \$99.00 plus tax for April 30th, so book your room early. The deadline is April 10th, 2009. *Call - 1-800-870-0349 or 614-885-3334. Please identify yourself as a member of The Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education.*

Registration opened Monday, March 16th at [The Ohio Literacy Network](#)

Quote of the Week

“If things seem under control, you’re just not going fast enough.” – Mario Andretti