

Follow-up Discussion

Professional Development Monthly Advisor and Planner (PDMAP)

Motivation, Persistence, and Retention

September 2009

Discussion Questions:

1. Tell us your name, your program name, and your teaching or administrative situation. If you are a teacher, are your classes group or individualized instruction?
2. Which resources from the September PD MAP regarding adult learner motivation, persistence, and retention did you read?
3. Do you think that motivation, persistence, and retention are different for ABE/ASE learners than for ESL learners? If so, in what ways?
4. What challenges do you face in the classroom when encouraging or helping adult learners to be motivated and to persist? Are the barriers psychological, academic or situational? What challenges do you or does your program face in retaining adult learners?
5. Explain any strategies you currently use to increase motivation, persistence, and/or retention.
6. Prior to reading articles in the September PD MAP, what did you believe adult education programs *could* and *should* do to help adult learners persist? Now, after reading the research, how have your beliefs changed? What factors are you *now* aware of that are the foundation of adult learner persistence?
7. Think about what you read on the topic of motivation, persistence, and retention. Did any of the resources describe a specific strategy that you could use at your program to help overcome the challenges of motivation, persistence, and retention? Describe that strategy and tell us how you could implement it at your adult education program.
8. Of all the ideas that we have discussed today, what is the most important idea you can take with you to your classroom or your program?