Adult Basic Education Authorization

July – December 2013

COLORADO DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION cde

This is an update on the Adult Basic Education Authorization (ABEA) activities. This update has information about the ABEA courses and the portfolio, applying for and renewing the ABEA, and FY14 compliance reporting.

Revision of ABEA Course Competencies

In FY13 (July 1, 2012- June 30, 2013) the 62 course competencies for the four required courses were revised by 43 adult educators representing 21 of the 32 funded programs. Also represented were seven of the eight community colleges that offer the courses, the state Professional Development Resource Center, Colorado State University and the Colorado Department of Corrections. Between December 2012 and April 2013, four groups drafted a set of revised competencies for each course. Each group submitted its recommendations to CDE/AEFL. The final version with 51 competencies is awaiting approval from the state community college curriculum committee and the State Board of Education. It is anticipated that the revised competencies will be implemented by the fall 2014 semester.

Online and Hybrid ABEA Courses

The online ABEA courses through CCCOnline, Colorado Mountain College and Colorado State University are available to adult educators throughout the state. Additionally, the Unlimited Learning Center, Inc. in Cortez has partnered with Adams State University to offer hybrid courses to anyone in the state

Online and Hybrid… (cont.)

who has access to receive live interactive video conferencing. CCCOnline has a resource for those interested in learning more about online learning. Access it at http://www.ccconline.org/Future_Students .

Hybrid courses require students to attend some classes in person and to interact with the instructor and their classmates electronically in between in person meetings.

A minimum number of students (typically 12) must register for the online and hybrid courses. **It is important that students do not delay registering for courses because the decision to cancel the course is typically made two to three weeks before the scheduled start date.**

Instructors employed at AEFLA funded programs may be eligible for PD Support (tuition assistance). The application deadline is 15 business days before the scheduled start date of the class.

For information about courses offered in the spring 2014 semester and PD Support, go to http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/LIAIndex.htm and scroll to the Authorization Courses section.

Applying and Renewing the ABEA on eLicensing

As of September 13, 2013 applicants no longer need to mail or bring official transcripts to CDE unless specifically

Applying… (cont.)

requested to do so.* However, high quality scans of your transcripts do need to be uploaded to eLicensing. Transcripts are used to evaluate your application. They are not kept on file once the application review is complete. Transcripts and other documentation should be retained in your personal files in case of an audit and/or for use in future applications.

*To minimize delays, any requested documents should be mailed to the new Educator Licensing address, on 6000 E Evans Ave. Do not use the old address on E Colfax.

Changes to PD Support for ABEA Courses

Beginning in FY15 (July 1, 2014) the provision of tuition assistance (Professional Development Support) to instructors taking ABEA courses will transition from the CDE Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) to local AEFLA grantees. Over 500 adult educators in Colorado have earned the authorization since it was implemented in 2004 and the CDE Office of AEFL has provided $157,000 in tuition assistance to over 300 educators. Two-thirds of PD Support recipients are no longer employed at AEFLA funded programs. (Continued on pg. 2)

The Adult Basic Education Authorization (ABEA) is a credential issued by CDE Educator Licensing to adult educators who provide evidence of a postsecondary degree and completion of the four required courses. Instructors in adult education programs that receive grant funding from the CDE Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) must have the ABEA when they are hired or agree to earn it within three years of their hire date. The ABEA is one of two accepted credentials for instructors employed by the Colorado Department of Corrections. To learn more about the ABEA go to http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/LIAIndex.htm.

Changes to PD… (cont.)

In transitioning the provision of tuition assistance from the state office to the local grantees, decisions about awarding tuition assistance will be made at the local level using specific criteria. More information will be provided at a later date.

Training for Portfolio Evaluators

A webinar for portfolio evaluators, adult education staff members who directly supervise instructors, was delivered in December. The focus of the webinar was the evaluator and applicant eligibility requirements and the evaluation of experience process. To listen to the webinar go to http://connect.enetcolorado.org/p9a9kafd89g/.

FY14 Compliance

An email was sent to program directors in December confirming the program's mid-year compliance status. The employment status of instructors as of Nov. 1, 2013 was used to create the mid-year compliance status report and determine the FY14 target and status.

Improvement plans were due January 6, 2014 from programs that are not in compliance. The plans are being reviewed. If the information on plan does not confirm that the program will be in compliance by June 30, 2014, program directors will be contacted.

Compliance status reports will be updated again in FY15. It is not necessary to provide us the names of instructors who resign and are hired and changes in hours worked per week until the fall of 2014. However, if an instructor earns the ABEA, please email his/her name and the ABEA expiration date.

Reminders

Submit PD Support Applications and register for ABEA courses. More information at http://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/Spring%202014%20Flyer_1.pdf

Portfolios must be received on the last business day of the month to be reviewed the next month. The deadlines are available at http://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/PortfolioSubmissionDeadlinesFY14.pdf

ABEA candidates should have a Certificate of Equivalency and/or transcript for the four required courses by **April 30, 2014** to allow time for:

1. The candidate to complete and submit the ABEA Application on eLicensing
2. Educator Licensing staff to review the application and issue the ABEA before the **June 30, 2014** compliance deadline