

Background

The landscape of high school equivalency testing is shifting to a more rigorous, standards-based assessment. The GED® Test to be released in January 2014 is based on the Common Core State Standards which reflect significant shifts in English Language Arts and Math. The Office of Vocational and Adult Education's recently released College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education highlight shifts toward focused-math, increased rigor, text complexity and non-fiction texts. Adult education teachers must be able to teach new skills such as algebraic thinking, close reading and constructed response writing.

Benefits to Teachers and Programs

This is an extended, multi-session professional development initiative using a cohort model. By participating in this professional development initiative, ABE/ASE teachers will be able to:

- Describe the content, item types and skills required for the GED® 2014 tests.
- Explain the three shifts in English language arts and in math instruction that are the basis of the 2014 GED® Test and the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education.
- Implement hands-on instruction around algebraic thinking.
- Train learners on the new calculator used by the new GED® 2014 test.
- Use evidence-based writing and close reading strategies for ABE/ASE reading instruction.
- Evaluate the complexity of texts for English reading.
- Develop fundamental teaching skills, using a variety of instructional techniques, best practices, and technology.

Participants

To get the full benefit from the initiative, individuals who are signed up must be willing and able to participate in all components of the professional development initiative from August 2013 through March 2014 described below. The initiative is best suited to teachers of students at ABE Intermediate Low, ABE Intermediate High, ASE Low and ASE High.

When choosing your program's participants please consider these factors:

- The teacher's years of experience teaching adult ABE/ASE learners.
- The teacher's level of interest, willingness to embrace the shifts, and willingness to learn new instructional techniques.
- The anticipated return to your program from investing in training the participating teacher. This return is expressed both in future teaching of adult learners at your program and the teacher's ability and willingness to share what they learn with other teachers and volunteers at your program.

Overview of Making the Shifts...2014 and Beyond Activities

The cohort-based Making the Shifts . . . 2014 and Beyond initiative consists of the following events and activities:

July 2013

Advance preparation Teachers who are registered in the cohort will gain foundational knowledge about the structure and new skill requirements of the 2014 GED® tests by viewing certain pre-recorded webinars on the GEDTS website and by reading selected articles.

August and September 2013

Regional workshops Teachers in the cohort will attend a regional workshop (held in conjunction with the CDE/AEFL

Regional Assessment Trainings). This all-day experience includes a half-day focus on math and a half-day focus on English language arts.

September – February 2014

Opportunities to practice new instructional strategies with adult learners Based on what they learn in the regional trainings, teachers will implement new strategies in math, reading and writing with their ABE/ASE learners. Teachers will continue their learning through a variety of interim activities which may include: reading articles about instructional strategies, writing lesson plans that incorporate the new strategies, keeping notes or writing reflections about the implementation of the strategy and its impact on teaching and learning, sharing lesson plans with other members of the cohort, completing an assignment for math or ELA instruction and discussing the results with other cohort members, and training colleagues at the local program.

November 2013 – January 2014

Webinars Members of the cohort will touch base throughout the initiative via webinars. Teachers will share their work to date, receive additional assignment(s), network with other cohort members, and be introduced to additional instructional strategies.

February - March 2014

Regional workshops Face-to-face workshops in four or five regions of the state will be offered to members of the cohort. Teachers will learn additional strategies for effective teaching of English language arts and mathematics to prepare learners for the GED® 2014.

Trainers

Tanya Mahnke ASE lead instructor for the Foundational Skills Institute, Community College of Denver.

Tanya has taught ABE, ASE and ESL learners for 10 years. She attended the Adult Numeracy Initiative training brought to Colorado in 2012-2013 and the College and Career Readiness National Training Institute in April 2013. Tanya is the lead trainer for the mathematics strand of Making the Shifts . . . 2014.

Karen Murphy ABE instructor for Adult and Family Education of SD-11 in Colorado Springs.

Karen has been a literacy instructor for parents and children and has taught adult ABE learners for over 5 years. She attended the Adult Numeracy Initiative training brought to Colorado in 2012-2013 and the College and Career Readiness National Training Institute in April 2013. Karen is the lead trainer for the English Language Arts strand of Making the Shifts . . . 2014.

Chelsea Stewart Director, Northern Colorado Professional Development Center.

Chelsea's experience in the field includes adult workplace skills program design/facilitation, AEFLA program coordination and ESL teaching. She attended the Adult Numeracy Initiative trainings brought to Colorado in 2012-2013. Chelsea is the co-trainer for the mathematics strand of Making the Shifts . . . 2014.

Jane Miller Professional Development Coordinator, CDE Adult Education and Family Literacy Office.

Jane has taught English reading and writing to adult ESL learners and was on the design team for the College and Career Readiness National Training Institute in April 2013. Jane is the co-trainer for the English Language Arts strand of Making the Shifts . . . 2014.

CDE Responsibilities

The AEFL office of CDE will provide the professional development events and activities (described below) at no cost to cohort members. Morning snacks and lunches will be provided for the two regional training events (summer/fall 2013 and winter/spring 2014). Participants will earn PD Hours for each segment they complete. Trainers will be available for technical assistance to cohort members throughout the Making the Shifts . . . 2014 and Beyond initiative.

Local Program Responsibilities

Program directors choose their cohort members from teachers who are currently engaged in ABE/ASE instruction. Because of space limitations for the face-to-face trainings, programs located along the Front Range may register up to six teachers to join the cohort. Mountain and rural program registrations are not limited.

Programs cover the costs of cohort members for any necessary transportation, lodging and meals for the two face-to-face trainings in the regions (summer/fall and winter/spring). Programs compensate cohort members and any classroom substitutes needed during the face-to-face trainings according to local program policy. Include these costs in the program's FY14 budget, submitted with the FY14 continuation request.

Next Step

Use these links to register your members for the summer/fall Making the Shifts . . . 2014 and Beyond training in your region. (See the session descriptions below.)

Northern Region Front Range Community College, Fort Collins

Wednesday, August 14, 2013, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WGLyZcLOUydJS1dzMeo4gg-NoTRqzprSvCJ7fJMC1YM>

Metro Denver Region Red Rocks Community College, Lakewood

Saturday, August 17, 2013, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_ZDNTniksmpUOaBGt3_ZQgy4flbQ7YPRfjIaLFdL7Wg

Southwest/Four Corners Region Western State University, Gunnison

Friday, August 23, 2013, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1s0yYdvzLsdhHXZ7IsUw7zgzGwwiC-mzW5Nnd08dYyIq>

Southern Region Adult & Family Education SD-11, Colorado Springs

Thursday, September 5, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mza04uwCgo7I9Ya7kcKGaC8Ulr32xMuLrGI_Of2ROck

Mountain Region Colorado Mountain College, Edwards

Friday, September 27, 2013, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wnLcWHW86lu4ncoHsMlm8pRdC-FkQX9T4nbOg2m41XY>

Making the Shifts: Mathematics Instruction for the GED® 2014 and Beyond This is a hands-on, half-day 'working' workshop. We begin with an overview of the College and Career Readiness Standards for math content and practices. We'll explore the three key shifts (Focus, Coherence and Rigor); comparing the GED® 2002 and 2014 tests. We'll redefine the term 'modeling' as it relates to the standards. Participants will work hands-on with manipulatives, algebraic tiles and new ways of approaching math problem solving. They will gain experience with the new TI-30XS Multiview calculator that students will use when taking the GED® 2014 test. Participants will gain an understanding that teaching math for life skills, not just for passing a test, is the key to the future for our adult students.

Making the Shifts: English Language Arts Instruction for the GED® 2014 and Beyond We'll start this half-day workshop by examining the new skills required by the English Language Arts section of the upcoming GED 2014 test. Next we'll explore three key shifts in ELA that are part of the recently-published College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education. Emerging from these two initiatives, a major emphasis of the workshop is on evidence-based writing for ABE and ASE. Teachers will examine student writing samples that demonstrate the three traits included on the ELA writing rubric. We'll practice instructional techniques to develop learners' abilities to use evidence from text to create arguments in writing. We'll explore strategies to help learners effectively express and organize their ideas. In

addition, participants will explore fiction and non-fiction ABE/ASE texts in regard to their complexity and their role in building knowledge. Teachers will leave the training with instructional activities they can use with learners to prepare them for the skill and knowledge demands of the GED® test to be released in January 2014.

Resources

Assessment Guide for Educators

GED Testing Service®, 2012

<http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/assessment-guide-for-educators>

The Guide covers the following material about the 2014 GED® Test: Chapter 1: introduction, item types across the four content areas, item layouts, the item samplers, and performance standards. Chapter 2: Webb's Depth of Knowledge Model, assessment targets for the four content areas, reasoning through language arts test passage requirements, content comparison between the GED® tests of 2002 and 2014. Chapter 3: short answer items, extended response scoring rubrics, and reporting category descriptions for content areas

College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education

Pimentel, S. MPR Associates, Inc. on behalf of U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, 2013

<http://www.adultedcontentstandards.ed.gov/>

This set of content standards for adult education was drawn from the Common Core State Standards. The document describes the process that was used to select standards that were most relevant, and important for adult learners. Three key shifts in standards for English language arts and three key shifts for mathematics are described. The anchor standards are then presented: 10 for Reading, 9 for Writing, 6 for Speaking and Listening, 6 for Language, 8 for Mathematical Practice followed by five levels of standards for Mathematical Content.

Contact

Making the Shifts . . . 2014 and Beyond Initiative

Jane Miller, miller_j@cde.state.co.us 303-866-6611

Online registration for the summer/fall 2013 Making the Shifts trainings

Chelsea Stewart, aefla.pd@gmail.com