

Aligning Adult Education National Leadership Activities across Content Areas

Background

Since the enactment of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act in 1998, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has created a number of national leadership activities specifically designed to improve the overall quality of teaching and learning for low-skilled adults in the United States. These activities have targeted the implementation of content standards as well as evidence-based instructional strategies in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and English language learning. Although developed and disseminated over a period of nearly a decade, these distinct projects have shared a common interest in improving educational outcomes for low-skilled adult students.

Overview

Aligning Adult Education National Leadership Activities across Content Areas is designed to assist OVAE in helping states understand how various adult education national leadership activities converge to support high quality teaching and improved learning for adult students. American Institutes for Research, through a contract with OVAE, will conduct a systematic review of select national leadership activities and determine the extent to which these activities currently align. This new project will help OVAE identify next steps for creating an even more coherent program of national leadership activities targeted to improving instruction and teacher quality through the implementation of standards-based education and evidence-based instruction across content areas. The activities under analysis include: Adult Numeracy Instruction Professional Development; Adult English Language Network; Learning-to-Achieve; Standards-in-Action; Student Achievement in Reading; and Teaching Excellence for Adult Literacy. The contract period is from September 2010 to February 2012.

Project Milestones

- Case and cross-case analysis of six national leadership activities
- Presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations
- Draft reports
- Final report

Outcomes and Products

- Summary of the findings of the analysis that recommends “next steps” for improving and maintaining alignment across OVAE’s adult education national leadership initiatives to serve the field.

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