

Policy Objective 2: Increase the number of college-ready GED graduates.

Strategy 2.1: Transform adult education services and expand outreach efforts leading to higher student engagement levels.

- For the eighth year, KYAE partnered with **McDonald's of Central and Southeastern Kentucky** to encourage GED® attainment with in-store promotions funded by the restaurant owners in 53 counties. Thanks to the leadership of Council member and McDonald's owner Joe Graviss, these McDonald's restaurants featured the "Time is running out" message on tray liners in fall 2013.
- The new GED® test: KYAE developed a **multi-tiered (TV, radio, print, and online) outreach campaign** reaching all 120 counties that was aimed at the 16,000 Kentuckians who started but did not complete GED® testing. KYAE's third segment of the outreach campaign, "Time is running out," was deployed the last quarter of the calendar year to prompt those individuals who had not passed and/or completed the 2002 GED® test series to pursue their GED® credential. With the introduction of the newly-normed, computer-based test, scores from the previous test edition expired at the end of 2013. As a result, there were 6,700 GED® graduates in the first half of the fiscal year (July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013) as compared to 3,700 during the same period in 2012.
- KYAE developed a strong partnership with **Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives** in which KDLA organized and facilitated two webinar sessions for librarians across the state to share valuable information about GED testing and adult education services. The first webinar shared information about the conclusion of the 2002 GED Series and Kentucky's free GED testing promotion. It also provided suggestions on ways in which libraries could partner with their local adult education programs. A set of downloadable, library-focused print materials promoting the test change and free GED testing were created and shared with librarians. The second webinar helped librarians understand the new GED test, including the types of computer skills testers will need, so that they may better help direct their patrons. Opportunities to partner were also emphasized, as well as the availability of promotional print materials.
- A **KYAE instructional technologist** is promoting innovations in technology by assisting adult education programs with effectively integrating technology into instruction. Assistance includes individual and small-group training on effective use of technology, multimedia, and educational services and resources.

- Recognizing the ever-increasing need to prepare students for college and careers, KYAE is developing **Integrated Education and Training (IET) models** to meet student and employer needs. Based on best practices and research, IET models respond to business and industry's needs by delivering adult education in tandem with employability skills so that employees remain competitive in a global market. KYAE launched its 18-month Employability Pilot in January 2014. It features a six-month plan for intensive assignments and activities to ready programs for providing academic skills within the context of entry level, employability/soft/foundational skills during next fiscal program year.
- KYAE and the **Kentucky Department of Corrections** are leveraging resources to decrease the number of inmates on waiting lists for entry into adult education programs at the state correctional facilities. By increasing access to services, KYAE expects an increase in the number of GED® credentials earned by inmates.
- The **National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)** is a stackable credential that documents employment skills critical to workforce success. KYAE provides instruction and pays for the assessment leading to an NCRC attainment for eligible students. More than 2,311 KYAE students earned an NCRC last fiscal year.
- KYAE is an integral partner in the **Kentucky Certified Work Ready Communities (CWRC)** project. The CWRC criteria for the application process reflect KYAE's mission to reduce the adult population ages 18 to 64, without a high school credential or its equivalent, through quality, standards-based instruction. In order for a community to earn its CWRC certification, all criteria must be achieved and sustained.

Strategy 2.2: Implement initiatives to increase the number of KYAE students advancing to postsecondary education.

- Kentucky was the first state to adopt **Common Core State Standards in adult education**. Adult educators participated in three years of intensive and comprehensive professional development (Standards-in-Action) leading to implementation of KYAE College- and Career-Readiness Standards (KCCRS) in English/ language arts and mathematics. The KCCRS professional development scaffold provides tools with which to acquaint instructors with standards and effectively integrate them into instruction, translates standards into curricula, aligns resources and student assignments to standards, and assists directors with appraising teaching effectiveness.
- **Kentucky's Accelerating Opportunity (AO) program**, a partnership of KYAE, KCTCS, and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, is helping Kentuckians earn college credit and workforce credentials by integrating the delivery of basic academic and technical skills. AO is offered at all 16 KCTCS colleges, including adult education programs in 21 counties. Local Office of Employability and Training offices and affiliates are coordinating efforts to provide referrals to AO programs and career pathways guidance/advice to potential students.

Strategy 2.3: Attract, retain, and prepare highly effective adult educators.

- With the conclusion of Standards-in-Action professional development, KYAE expects the adult educator's repertoire of instructional tools to grow, resulting in the full implementation of sustainable, standards-based instruction – ultimately permitting adult students the same advantages of career- and college-readiness as any other student. Additionally, **program director administrative training** is planned for those interested in enriching their business acumen in tandem with improving their instructional leadership.
- As part of KYAE-sponsored professional development, adult educators in 52 counties have been trained in the **PowerPath to Education and Employment System** to focus on how individuals learn. PowerPath screens for key breakdowns in learning that result from challenges in vision and hearing, visual stress syndrome, attention, and information processing. It provides tools for educators to identify underlying learning difference barriers to education and employment success.
- To ensure high-quality, research-based professional development, KYAE and its group of expert, contracted partners – **Adult Education Academy, Morehead State University; Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, University of Kentucky; the National Center for Family Literacy; and Kentucky Educational Television** – are executing the three-year Standards-in-Action (SIA) professional development model and beginning to plan for future professional growth opportunities that will buttress institutionalizing standards-based instruction. Recent research indicates successful professional development features hands-on activities that are sustained over time, collaborative, job-embedded, and reflective – all of which are elements of KYAE's SIA professional development.
- Program leadership is second only to actual instruction in affecting student performance. Therefore, **professional development efforts** continually support growing program directors as instructional and administrative leaders by modeling and encouraging collegial collaboration, inclusive decision making, and quality working conditions. KYAE is planning professional development using virtual and facilitated study circles to engage program directors in examining aspects of instructional leadership, which will also inform future professional development.