

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.

- Due to GED® test changes to occur in January 2014, Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) has developed a **grassroots outreach campaign** aimed at the 16,000 Kentuckians who have started but not completed GED® testing. If they do not finish by December 18, 2013, their scores will expire. KYAE has provided local adult education programs with a broad array of outreach resources and materials for communicating with and recruiting students. In addition, KYAE will release a targeted mathematics online course to assist the nearly 3,000 students who have achieved a minimum score in each content area of the test except mathematics.
- For the seventh year, **KYAE has partnered with McDonald's of Central and Southeastern Kentucky** to encourage GED® attainment with in-store promotions funded by the restaurant owners in 34 counties. With the leadership of Council member and McDonald's owner Joe Graviss, McDonald's restaurants in another 38 counties have joined the campaign.
- 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 education 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 for employees to remain competitive in a global market.
- **KYAE and the Kentucky Department of Corrections are working to increase services in state correctional facilities** with waiting lists for entry into adult education programs. By increasing the number of classes, the number of inmates entering adult education programs and earning a GED® credential will grow.

- As part of KYAE-sponsored professional development, adult educators in 46 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 identifying the underlying barriers to education and employment success.
- 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 NCRC attainment for eligible students. More than 2,200 KYAE students earned an NCRC last fiscal year.

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 are required to participate in three years of intensive and comprehensive professional development leading to implementation of KYAE Common Core Standards (KCCS) in English/language arts and mathematics. The KCCS professional development will build instructors' understanding of the standards taught; provide tools to translate the standards into curriculum and align student assignments to standards; and help program directors assess the extent to which instructors are teaching to the standards and using effective instruction. Adult educators are working in learning communities to identify new curricula and resources where necessary to align with elevated standards.
- **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 will soon be offered at all 16 KCTCS colleges including adult education programs in 17 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.

- Kentucky's educational system, including adult education, has embraced college-ready, standards-based instruction, which will naturally lead to preparing students for careers and postsecondary education. KYAE is **developing adult educators' standards-based knowledge and competencies** through unpacking standards, aligning resources, identifying lead standards, building lesson plans and instructional units, and reflecting upon student learning. 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 to career- and college-readiness as any other student.

- To ensure high-quality, research-based professional development, KYAE and its contracted expertise of 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 year two of a 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 that successful professional development features hands-on activities that are sustained over time, collaborative, job-embedded, and reflective – all of which are included in 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 directions as instructional and administrative leaders by modeling and encouraging collegial collaboration, inclusive decision-making and quality working conditions.
- KYAE is designing an **enhanced data collection system** that will integrate new technologies for enhancing the data collection, reporting, and analysis capabilities at both local and state levels.
- KYAE encourages providers serving multiple counties to consider models that would employ full-time content experts who circulate as instructors among the counties.