



## **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.**

- In recognition of the current economy and high unemployment rates, KYAE is offering **free GED testing** through June 30, 2012, and is waiving the usual \$60 test fee.
- Through a partnership with the Kentucky Broadcaster's Association, KYAE is conducting an **outreach campaign** featuring a television public service announcement produced by the National Ad Council. The partnership also includes a short-term radio campaign to promote free GED testing.
- **KYAE has partnered with McDonald's of Central and Southeastern Kentucky** for six years 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 36 counties joined the campaign in fall 2011.
- KYAE is **promoting innovative uses of technology** and its ongoing partnership with KET in an effort to appeal to younger, more tech-savvy students as well as those who have different learning styles. Since fall 2011, nearly 100 adult educators have attended KET seminars on using technology in the classroom.
- Adult educators in 16 counties are piloting the use of selected **online transitions curricula** leading to college-ready GED graduates.
- Beginning July 1, 2012, all programs will implement **the delivery of services within a managed program model** based on scheduled orientation, classes, and educational alternatives. Research suggests that the managed program model results in increased student retention and results.
- KYAE has revised its performance funding model to better focus programs on achieving goals in the areas of enrollment, academic performance, GED attainment, and transitions to postsecondary education.
- KYAE will convene a workgroup to look at the current status of **corrections education** and ways to increase the number of inmates enrolled in adult education and achieving a GED credential.

- Over the past three years, 34 programs 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. KYAE continues to offer this professional development opportunity to programs.
- **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 1,300 KYAE students have earned an NCRC to date this year – the same number as all of last fiscal year.

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

- Kentucky was one of the first states to adopt the NGA-CCSSO Common Core State Standards at all educational levels – P-12, postsecondary, and adult education. Over the next three years, all adult education program directors and instructors are required to participate fully in intensive and comprehensive professional development leading to **implementation of KYAE Common Core Standards (KCCS) in English/language arts and mathematics**. Professional development is delivered via face-to-face sessions and online courses. 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. Considerable work is required at the program level to ensure that program directors and instructors have a shared understanding of KCCS. They are working in learning communities to review current curricula and identify new curricula and resources where necessary to align with elevated standards. More than 700 adult educators participated in the first phase of the standards rollout.
- KYAE, KCTCS, and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet were awarded a **\$1.6 million grant to help more Kentuckians earn college credit and workforce credentials**. The three-year grant is part of Accelerating Opportunity, an initiative supported by a strategic partnership of five leading philanthropies. Kentucky joins Illinois, Kansas, and North Carolina in the project. The Accelerating Opportunity pilot seeks to put adult students on track to earn a postsecondary credential by integrating the delivery of basic academic and technical skills.
- KYAE partners with KHEAA to ensure adult educators and adult students have access to college information, financial aid assistance, and career planning.

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

- **KYAE's professional development model** is focused on aligning curricula to KCCS and preparing instructors to teach the higher-level skills required by the standards. In addition to the professional development for instructors, KYAE continues to provide training for program directors on their role as instructional leaders in their programs.
- In addition to the required KCCS professional development, more than 500 adult educators are participating in online activities to enhance their instructional abilities.
- The **Adult Education Reporting Information Network (AERIN) has been enhanced** so that KYAE can track student performance by instructor. This data will help inform professional development plans at state, program, and instructor levels.
- Through a series of policy changes, **KYAE has elevated minimum educational requirements for new program directors and instructors** and eliminated the “grandfathered” status of non-degreed instructors.
- To ensure **high-quality, research-based professional development**, KYAE is contracting for services from the Adult Education Academy, Morehead State University; Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, University of Kentucky; the National Center for Family Literacy; and Kentucky Educational Television. These partners provide professional development in the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, and English as a second language. They also perform online course development and provide training and support in using technology as a classroom tool.
- **KYAE is partnering with the Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC)** to host an institute for all correctional instructors within the state and local facilities in May 2012. This training will be geared toward improving the quality of instruction and identifying and developing strategies to serve those inmates with learning challenges. According to DOC, approximately 85 percent of Kentucky's inmate population has some type of learning difference or challenge.