Adult Education: High School Equivalency Test Preparation

Vicki Anderson Prater
Education Programs Consultant
Adult Education Office, CDE
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Some California Literacy Statistics

- California has the highest percentage of adults without a high school diploma
- More than 6.1 million adults do not have a diploma or its equivalent
- More than 3.5 million adults speak English “less than well”
- More than 1.3 million California residents of labor-force age are unemployed
California Adult Education Providers (2013-2014)

- State-funded adult schools
- Agencies funded by The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)
  - 154 Adult Schools
  - 24 Community-Based Organizations
  - 17 Community College Districts
  - 8 Library Literacy Programs
  - 5 County Offices of Education
  - 16 Correctional Facilities/Institutions
Adult Education Program Areas

- State funding supports ten program areas in Adult Education (Adult Schools)
- AEFLA funding only supports a few of these programs
  - English as a Second Language (ESL) and Citizenship
  - Adult Basic Education (ABE) which offers courses in literacy and numeracy through grade eight level
  - Adult Secondary Education which offers courses for high school equivalency test (HSET) preparation or a high school diploma
    - 12,204 AEFLA learners received a GED® in 2012-13 and
    - 8,759 AEFLA learners received a high school diploma
The Role of the Adult Education Office in HSET Preparation (1)

• The Adult Education Office (AEO) provides technical assistance to agencies currently providing or planning to provide HSET preparation
  – Credentialing (Adult Schools)
  – Resources
  – Eligibility of learners (e.g. age, skill level)

• The AEO provides HSET updates to the field via AEFLA network meetings, newsletter, and various conferences

• The AEO assists learners looking for agencies offering HSET preparation
The Role of the AEO in HSET Preparation (2)

Projects and initiatives to improve student outcomes

• Project STAR (Student Achievement in Reading)
  – A Federal project focused on evidence-based instructional and assessment practices
  – Designed for higher level ABE students

• ABE Initiative — a statewide effort to put more emphasis on and quality in ABE instruction

• TEAL (Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy)
  – A Federal project focused on evidence-based writing instructional practices
  – Designed for ABE and ASE students
The Role of the AEO in HSET Preparation (3)

• Support from the Leadership Projects (funded with AEFLA Grant)
  – The California Adult Literacy Project (CALPRO) offers many professional development options for teachers with current focus on Implementation of College and Career Readiness Standards
  – The Outreach and Technical Assistance Network (OTAN) offers workshops to facilitate online teaching and infuse technology into the classroom
  – The Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) provides the assessment and data collection required by AEFLA
Contact Information

Vicki Anderson Prater
Adult Education Office
California Department of Education
vprater@cde.ca.gov
916-324-4935