



New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Chris Christie, *Governor*

POLICY RESOLUTION: SETC #2016-05

SUBJECT: College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education

Purpose:

The State Council for Adult Literacy Education Services (SCALES) recommends establishing the College and Career Readiness Standards as the standards for New Jersey's Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) System. Equipped for the Future (EFF) standards are currently the recognized standards for New Jersey's Adult Literacy system. In order to create a consistent and comprehensive adult literacy system, the standards should align with the standards recognized by USDOL-OCTAE (Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education) and NRS (National Reporting System for Adult Education).

Background:

SCALES focuses on improving the adult literacy delivery system. It is a bi-partisan body created within the SETC by statute in 1999, to facilitate state and local policy development, planning and oversight in consultation with stakeholders in the area of adult literacy education. In carrying out its role, the Council is responsible for developing a broad-based State Literacy Plan, appropriate performance standards, system-wide impact measures, statewide benchmarks to evaluate adult literacy services, and advocating for professional development and information sharing for practitioners and policy makers.

In 2000, Equipped for the Future (EFF) were established as standards for New Jersey's Adult Literacy system. The EFF standards expanded the traditional goals of adult literacy reading, writing and math, to include a wider range of the skills adults need to be successful in their families, communities and work. The EFF standards created broad guidelines for New Jersey's Adult Literacy system.

In 2013, USDOL-OCTAE released the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards for Adult Education. These standards include a subset of the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that are most appropriate for adult education. The College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education are aligned to the needs of both employers and the post-secondary community. Many states have adopted these standards for their adult literacy systems, in order to meet the new requirements under WIOA. The College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Literacy not only meet the requirements of WIOA, the standards measure proficiencies up to a 12th

grade level and beyond. In turn, USDOL-OCTAE is revising the EFL descriptors for Adult Basic Education and Adult Secondary Education to reflect the CCR standards.

The NRS is the state accountability system for the federally funded adult education program. It defines the descriptive, participation and outcome measures that each state must report on adult education students, specifies the methods states are to use to collect these measures and establishes reporting procedures. States report NRS data annually to the USDOL-OCTAE using data tables that contain aggregated state totals. The data provide a picture of adult education students that USDOL-OCTAE uses to report about the program to Congress, other Federal agencies, states and the public. USDOL-OCTAE also uses this data to set state performance levels and incentive awards.

WIOA promotes better coordination between local area Title II providers, One-Stop Career Center programs and services, and the various workforce development partners. Better collaboration of One-Stop partners, implementation of proven EFF concepts and resources and alignment of college and career readiness standards, presents New Jersey's Adult Literacy system with the opportunity to improve. The opportunities for improvement include service delivery, leveraging of available resources, professional and curriculum development.

RESOLUTION: In order to better align WIOA Title II programs with the federally recognized standards and data measures, the SETC formally adopts the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education as the standards for New Jersey's Adult Literacy system. This policy takes immediate effect and will be included in the New Jersey Combined State Plan.

Commission Approved: January 19, 2016