

Adult Education & GED Testing

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Roy W. Johnson, Chancellor

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ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FACE REDUCED FUNDING

In addition to a probable proration of state funds, adult education programs administered by The Alabama College System will possibly also have a 2.9% reduction in federal funds and a reduction of over \$1.5 million in federal carry-over funds that were included in allocation amounts in FY2003, but will not be available in FY2004.

ALAPCAE WILL SPONSOR A LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION MAY 6

Alabama Association for Public and Continuing Education (ALAPCAE), the professional association for adult educators in the state, will sponsor a legislative reception May 6, 2003 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the top floor of the RSA Plaza Building. Ms. Lynn Ivey, president of ALAPCAE, Mr. Randall White, legislative committee chairman, and many other ALAPCAE members will also provide a program focusing on the importance of adult education in the state's workforce development efforts. Key legislators and college administrators are planning to attend. It is critical that the adult education line item not be cut excessively during this economic crisis. Adequate funding of adult education programs is essential for Alabama to compete successfully in building a quality workforce.

ALABAMA ADULT EDUCATION SUMMER CONFERENCE

The annual Adult Education Summer Conference is scheduled for June 24-26, 2003, at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center and Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham. The conference will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24 and end at noon on Thursday, June 26. Like previous years, there will be ten concurrent sessions for six different time periods from 90 to 120 minutes each. Each participant will have the opportunity for ten hours of professional development. A variety of topics will be offered. It is expected that 800 to 1,000 adult education educators will attend.

ONLINE GED INSTRUCTION OFFERED FOR AE STUDENTS

Through the DPE purchase of site licenses for GED Connection and Workplace Essential Skills Programs, adult students are able to learn online as well as in the classroom. Components of these programs include: online lessons, exchanges of e-mail between the teacher and his or her students, and an online management feature where reports showing the progress of each student

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"News You Can Use" is a periodic report from the Chancellor to members of the Alabama State Board of Education and adult education practitioners in Alabama about news of interest pertaining to adult education and GED Testing within The Alabama College System.

can be created and printed. One instructor in particular, Ms. Linda Morris, a part-time instructor from Gadsden, has had her students achieve 128 completions of online instructional activities in a short period of time. Recently, she had her first GED graduate from the online program.

DATA REPORTING SYSTEM NEARS SUPERIOR RATING

Using policies and procedural guidance developed by the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Education, Alabama's adult education program needs to meet one additional standard to advance from an *Acceptable* to a *Superior* rating. We must establish a standard for the percentage of students who will be post-tested during each program year. The standard of 65% will become effective April 1, 2003 and may increase from year to year as program improvement initiatives are implemented. Local providers will receive a grade on their annual report card that reflects the ability to meet this standard. Alabama has already met many of the standards for an *Exemplary* rating; therefore, we will continue to make strides in that direction.

AGENCY COORDINATION HELPS FRUSTRATED STUDENT

Recently the Adult Education staff got a phone call from a distraught mother in Birmingham who was very concerned about her twenty-year-old son. He had failed the high school exit exam four times and had become very depressed, even threatening suicide. He had passed all of his coursework to graduate, but his inability to pass the exit exam was keeping him from going on to college and starting a career, or so he thought. To compound matters, he was diagnosed with a learning disability in the twelfth grade, but had not been able to get the accommodations he needed to pass the exit exam nor understand why he learned differently. Working with the Department of Rehabilitation Services, the adult education staff provided options and a course of action for the son. He can now get a complete diagnosis of his specific learning disability, get the accommodations he needs to pass either the exit exam or the GED, learn more about how he can succeed in college, and later start a productive career. Working together, we were able to find solutions.

GED TEST STATISTICS

Analysis of GED Test data reflect that 9,615 Alabamians were administered the GED Test between January 1 and December 31, 2002. Of those, 5,750 (59.8%) earned scores high enough to receive an Alabama Certificate of High School Equivalency. The majority of students reported that they took the test to pursue further education or to qualify for employment. During this academic year, 84 high school seniors pursuing the Alternate Adult High School Diploma (AAHSD) have been administered the GED Test. Of those, 18 (21.4%) have earned passing scores on the GED Test that would partially qualify them to earn a high school diploma and graduate with their classmates.

FOR INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION, CONTACT:

Mr. Bob Romine (romine@acs.cc.al.us), Dr. Naomi Scales (nscases@acs.cc.al.us), Dr. Ron Russell (rrussell@acs.cc.al.us), or Mr. Joe Macaluso (macaluso@acs.cc.al.us). Phone: (334) 353-4889 or 1-800-392-8086.