

Adult Education & GED Testing

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Roy W. Johnson, Chancellor

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FEDERAL FUNDS COULD BE REDUCED EVEN MORE

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) has already reduced the amount of the FY2004 adult education federal allocation by more than \$1M, using data supplied by the 2000 Census. DOE officials have recently notified the Department that Alabama's FY2005 federal funding may be reduced still further because of the 10 percent reduction limit that was applied to the FY2004 allocation. Not all of the reduction created by the Census data could be applied in one year. Also, we were notified that the state allocation must not drop below the appropriate level compared to last year's allocation or the federal allocation will be reduced even further in the future depending on which year the match is credited. We need to make every effort to keep this from happening.

ADULT EDUCATION FUNDING FOR OCTOBER 1- JUNE 30

Because the state legislature has not approved a final budget, the state allocation for adult education is unknown at this time. Once the level of state funding is determined, allocation letters will be sent to the local adult education providers as quickly as possible. Despite this uncertainty, every effort should be made to continue to provide vital services to our learners without interruption. Your support in making this possible is appreciated.

AE PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO EXCEED FEDERAL GOALS

Preliminary results of data collected for the FY2003 funding year ending June 30 indicate that adult education programs across the state exceeded the average of federal goals by 12 percent (40%- 28%). The federal goals have increased each year and the adult education programs have responded strongly by increasing performance at an even faster rate. For example, for FY2002, the difference was 8 percent (33%- 25%) and for FY2001, it was only 3 percent (26%- 23%). Final results will be distributed when the Adult Education Report Cards are available this fall.

GED CHIEF EXAMINERS'/AE SUPERVISORS' CONFERENCE

The GED Chief Examiners' Conference will be held October 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach. Examiners will be trained on current issues in GED testing. All chief examiners are expected to attend. The registration fee for each GED Examiner is \$10. There will also be a workshop for new adult education supervisors from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. that day.

OVER

"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.

The Adult Education Supervisors' Conference will be held at the same location from 8 a.m. on October 29 to noon on October 31. The workshop will address current issues in adult education. Persons responsible for the new division of Adult Education and Skills Training, including all adult education supervisors, are expected to attend. The registration fee is \$30 for each participant. Adult education supervisors may use travel or staff development funds budgeted from the second allocation for October 1 - June 30, 2003 to cover expenses for this workshop. To get the lowest rate, room reservations must be made by September 27 by calling the resort at 1-800-459-4278. Registration can be made in advance by contacting one of our staff members or on site prior to the conference. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.
Note: Commitments for the conference above were made prior to notification of the reductions in funding.

2003 STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

If funds are available, Adult Education and Skills Training personnel are encouraged to attend the 2003 State Workforce Development Conference at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, adjacent to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. The conference will be October 15 - 17, 2003. Attendees expected are the four Workforce Boards, partner agencies, private sector employees, Chambers of Commerce, economic development entities, and other parties interested in workforce development. Reservations at the hotel can be made by calling (205) 324-5000, and registration can be made by contacting Ms. Annie Williams at Southern Union State Community College.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 12 million people have passed the GED since 1942.
- The GED is only offered in the United States including nine territories and Canada.
- The GED is designed so that over one third of all graduating seniors would not pass.
- Famous GED graduates include: Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner, former New Jersey Governor Jim Florio, US Senator Ben Lighthorse Campbell, Bill Cosby, Waylon Jennings, Wendy's founder Dave Thomas, Mary Lou Retton, and Kelly McGillis.

BILL COSBY'S FOURTH DAY AT BOOT CAMP

Bill Cosby escaped from his family's abject poverty by joining the Navy before graduating, just like his father had done before him. Years later, he said he did not realize the value of an education until his first four days of boot camp. Now motivated, he took correspondence courses through the Navy so he could prepare for the GED, which he passed. After being discharged from the Navy, he entered college planning on becoming a physical education teacher. Short of money, he worked as a bartender where he became recognized as a talented comedian. Not only has Bill Cosby become one of the nation's best known and respected entertainers, his commitment to education resulted in his earning a Bachelor's Degree, a Master's Degree, and in 1977, a Doctorate in Education. Having the opportunity for a second chance made a real difference in his life.

FOR INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION, CONTACT:

Mr. Bob Romine (romine@acs.cc.al.us), Dr. Naomi Scales (nscales@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.