

April 20, 2016

WIOA Updates from Adult Education

(for Workforce Development Council meeting May 12, 2016)

Under WIOA, Hawaii's Department of Education places emphasis on a systemic, collaborative interagency approach to adult education to establish more links to and partnerships with job training programs. Towards this end, the two Community Schools for Adults (CSAs) and their respective campuses, along with the Adult and Community Education State Office, are addressing the Title II – Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) WIOA requirements as identified in the Unified State Plan. Integrated Education and Training program/ Career Pathways, the College and Career Readiness Standards alignment with the Hawaii Common Core State Standards, workforce preparation activities, family literacy, educational activities for the incarcerated, statewide professional development training, and utilization of a centralized data management system (HireNet) to address the WIOA performance measures.

Integrated Education and Training/Career Pathways

Hawaii's adult education program continues to provide adult literacy and basic education service, English language proficiency and high school equivalency preparation, as it has traditionally; however, under WIOA, in collaboration with the core partners and other key stakeholders, these services are being integrated with a focus on career services so that adults gain, retain and/or advance in employment. The CSAs are in the process of hiring full-time counselors who will provide academic and career advising services to keep the adult learners progressing through their Education, Career and Life Plans. In addition, the CSAs are currently administering a program that leads to the attainment of a National Workplace Readiness Certificate.

College and Career Readiness Standards

The Hawaii Dept. of Education has adopted the Common Core State Standards for competency-based instruction in the K-12 system. HIDOE's adult education program will use the College & Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), a subset of the Common Core State Standards, for competency-based instruction. Through 2016, the adult education program staff are receiving professional development on understanding and implementing the CCRS. By July 1, 2016, the program will begin implementing a comprehensive CCRS-aligned curriculum into instructional services for all students and will continue until fully implemented.

Workforce Preparation

Work has begun to achieve the goal of preparing students to transition as seamlessly as possible to the career pathways opportunities, i.e. certificate and credential programs offered by the University of Hawaii/Community College system, labor unions, and others, so that eligible adults will ultimately have what they need to transition into sustainable employment.

Family Literacy

The CSAs are coordinating efforts with HIDOE's elementary schools to develop interactive literacy activities between parents and their children whereby the parents will become primary teachers and full partners in the education of their children.

Corrections

The McKinley Community Schools for Adults and the Department of Public Safety work in coordination to provide jointly-funded basic skills education programs to Hawaii's eligible incarcerated population. Most current is the offering of a workplace readiness program at the Kauai Community Correctional Center.

Statewide Professional Development Training

Ongoing statewide professional development opportunities are provided to the CSAs by the Adult & Community Education State Office for continuous improvement and increased effectiveness, particularly in the areas of CCRS, effective instruction practices, and career pathways.

Data Management

HIDOE's adult education program continues to report performance measures through the National Reporting System (NRS) as required under WIOA. Additionally, the program's personnel are receiving proper training on the use of HireNet.