

## Frequently Asked Questions about Maryland's Adult & Correctional Education Programs

### *What is Maryland's system of adult education?*

#### *The system includes:*

- A state plan approved by the State Board of Education and the US Department of Education
- National and state standards that include federal and state legislative requirements
- Open, equitable access to funding by a diverse set of organizations through competitive grants
- A network of 35 statewide grantees including community colleges, non – profits, local school systems, libraries, and government agencies with instruction at 321 locations
- Stakeholder input through a State Advisory Committee with representation from DLLR, labor, business, providers, the aging, DHR, and others
- Statewide accountability component driven by national and state performance measures

### *What “value added” does MSDE provide for local grantees?*

#### *MSDE provides:*

- Grant management is one of many services.
- Onsite technical assistance to local programs.
- Leadership and staffing for statewide workgroups to develop state standards.
- Training and professional development using expertise from across MSDE Divisions.
- Identification of national best practices and research based strategies and develops plans to integrate them into the Maryland system.
- Informal and formal needs assessments and surveys to identify program improvement opportunities.
- Ongoing technical assistance and professional development in family literacy, workplace education, special needs populations, ESL, high school diploma options, and accountability for the statewide network of teachers – 80% of whom are part time- administrators, and local instructional leaders.
- Access to and alignment with the education continuum including :
  - Alignment with high school graduation standards
  - Alignment with teacher standards

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- Alignment with curriculum content
- Alignment with teacher professional development standards
- Specialized knowledge and expertise in HR to classify, screen and recruit Education personnel
- Specialized knowledge transfer, expertise, and technical assistance to support the teachers, state staff, and learner achievement
  - Instruction – math research and instruction curriculum development, content standards
  - Special Education
  - Reading research and methods
  - English Literacy research and methods
  - Family Literacy Parent Involvement, Judy Hoyer Centers, Even Start/Early Head Start, Family Support Centers
  - Instructional technology and online course development
  - Library Services

### *How does MSDE measure and track the effectiveness of adult education and family literacy programs?*

- MSDE has robust accountability standards aligned with the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (Title II of the Workforce Investment Act) and the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS).
- Performance is measured by National performance targets to assure that adult learners can increase literacy skills, obtain a high school diploma, transition to post secondary education or training, obtain or retain employment or advance on the job.
- MSDE sets high goals and expectations for the state and grantees as evidenced by performance targets that have increased annually for eight years.
- The US Department of Education commended Maryland in its monitoring report, “for the development and implementation of the adult education accountability system. Its implementation strategies for accountability are well thought out, interconnected with essential program evaluation and training systems, supported with knowledgeable staff, and supported with well designed processes and supporting products.”
- MSDE’s Literacy Works Information System (LWIS), a web based data system that tracks every learner enrolled in MD’s adult education system, is aligned with the National Reporting System for adult education.
- LWIS has been cited by US Department of Education as “a highly efficient and comprehensive MIS that includes the essential elements for collection

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and reporting of NRS data, and is available for use with 100% of state grant recipients. At the state level, data from all funded programs can be combined for analysis of trends and performance.”

- LWIS data is available at the learner, teacher, class, grantee, county, and state level. Multi year trend data is also available and all local grantees have been trained in data based decision making using LWIS data. Data is also available for download at the local level for additional analysis. LWIS data is data matched annually with DLLR's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Record database.
- Maryland's data quality is certified as meeting federal data quality standards at the Exemplary level.
- MSDE uses evidence based instructional approaches to support the acquisition of skills
- MSDE supports adult learners in their goal setting, individual instructional plans, and standardized assessments to document their progress.
- MSDE supports the data and accountability system with onsite data quality monitoring visits, data quality improvement plans, state LWIS Users Group meetings, regular training for local MIS Coordinators, and a network of Intake Assessment Specialists to ensure consistent implementation and documentation.

### *What has been the performance of MD's adult education program?*

- Maryland's Adult Education and Family Literacy system has met or exceeded its federally established performance goals for 8 consecutive years - every year since the WIA was first implemented.
- MD ranks high among states for high school diplomas earned and awards more high school diplomas than 20 local school systems in MD.
- Correctional education reduces recidivism by 20% with a \$2:\$1 return on investment for the Department of Public Safety

### *What has been MSDE's record of increasing resources for adult education?*

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- In FY99, state adult education funding was \$750,000. In FY08, with the support of the State Superintendent and the General Assembly and in partnership with MAACCE, it is \$6.8M – a 900% increase.
- MD has increased its ranking among East Coast states' overall investment of state funding in adult education from the bottom to the middle in FY 08.
- MSDE continues partner with MAACCE and the General Assembly to advocate for needed additional resources. The State Board is again supporting a funding bill in the General Assembly.
- MSDE has secured additional resources for adult education
  - Maryland's adult education and literacy program's performance helped MD generate \$ 2.8M in federal incentive funds.
  - MSDE applied and was **one of six states** selected to participate in the Adult Education Coordination and Planning (AECAP) project, funded by US Department of Education to create a model partnership for integrated literacy and occupational skills.
  - MSDE was **one of six states** selected to participate in Standards-in-Action, a three year national initiative on implementing ESL content standards.
  - Maryland applied and is **one of 3 states** selected to participate in the Leadership Excellence Academy (LEA), the first national leadership certification for adult education administrators. This program is supported by the Verizon Foundation in partnership with ProLiteracy America and the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortia (NAEPDC).