

Maryland State Department of Education ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY SERVICES (AELS) INTERNAL COLLABORATIONS AND INITIATIVES

The Adult Education and Literacy Services Branch is currently involved in the following important internal departmental initiatives:

Office of Reading First:

AELS participates in the research-based professional development offered through this office, in order to coordinate the instructional strategies and techniques for teaching adults to read using the research-based practices in the K-12 system. Parents enrolled in adult education are an important consideration— as these individuals read better and understand the process, their children learn to read better.

Grant Program Initiatives:

AELS assists in the evaluation of grants under the State Aided Institutions funding to non-profit organizations that provide enriching educational programs and supplement learning for Maryland students in non- traditional instructional settings.

Division of Library Development and Services:

AELS collaborates with public libraries to offer distance learning opportunities to the adult learning community. AELS initiated a project to make ESL self- study instruction more accessible by placing Crossroads Café videos and instructional materials available in local libraries. Materials were supplemented by instructional classes.

Division of Rehabilitation Services:

AELS provides a grant to DORS for the deaf and blind adult learning community. DORS has contributed to the AELS policy planning for the special needs population.

Division of Certification and Accreditation:

The Division of Certification provides guidance in establishing credentials for adult education instructors. Additionally, this Division awards continuing education credit to grantee adult education staff who must maintain their state teacher/ administrator certification. Recent certification credit was awarded for the nationally recognized Leadership Excellence Academy , funded by Verizon Foundation and ProLiteracy USA, and the Bridges To Practice training for special needs populations.



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Division of Instruction:

English Language Learners - TITLE III: AELS collaborates with the Specialist for English Language Learners in establishing programs for parents of school-age children.

Professional Development: AELS applies the Maryland Professional Development Standards as model standards and tools for adult education training.

Web-based Learning Project: This office assisted AELS to secure a Community Technology Center grant, and also supports the platform for AELS online courses at no cost.

Division of Early Childhood Development:

AELS participates in the Advisory Council for the statewide Judy Hoyer Centers, assisting to create policy and monitoring the centers for quality programming. Additionally, AELS assists with the evaluation of grants for the Family Support Center network. AELS sets standards for the adult education program components which are critical to the success of both of these early childhood services. AELS assists the parents of children in these programs with their adult education needs.

Division of Student, Family, and School Support: Program Improvement and Family Support Branch:

AELS provides technical assistance to this Branch by creating policy and standards for the adult education component of the Even Start program, and facilitating partnerships at the local level. AELS also provides technical assistance to the Family Involvement Specialists in the development of the Family Involvement Toolkit and in setting policies to assist all parents to become involved in their children's education. Additionally, AELS serves on the committee for Migrant Education Program state plan and coordinates adult education services for migrant families.

Division of Special Education:

AELS works with this Division in effecting policy that ensures effective transition of individuals with disabilities to opportunities when they exit school. Recently, AELS collaborated on a change in COMAR to allow students with a special education completion certificate to take the GED examinations.

