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MARYLAND ADULT EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

Fact Sheet
74

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What are the Maryland Adult Education Technology Standards?

The Maryland Adult Education Technology Standards guide teachers in designing instruction that is supported by technology. The standards clarify technology skills for both adult learners and teachers, provide a common vision, and ensure consistency across programs and classes.

The Maryland Adult Education Learner Technology Standards specify what a student in an adult education program should know and be able to do. They describe the range of essential knowledge and skills adults need in today's technological, information-rich society. While the Maryland Adult Learner Technology Standards guide instruction, the integration of technology is individualized to achieve student and local program goals.

The Maryland Adult Education Teacher Technology Standards specify what a teacher should know and be able to do to implement the full range of adult learner technology standards in instruction. The teacher standards guide teachers in creating technology-supported learning environments.

Why is technology important in adult education?

Today's adults live in a society marked by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies. Adults must have the ability to use technology effectively to be successful in their roles as workers, family members, and citizens.

To be competitive in the workplace, adults must know how to use computers and other information technologies. Adult education students should have the opportunity to use technology as part of their instructional program. Research indicates that technology can have a positive impact on adult education instruction and student learning.

How do the technology standards improve adult education instruction and student learning?

The meaningful use of technology supports instruction. Technology should be used with the specific purpose of enhancing the curriculum. By using the technology standards in instruction, adult learners can:

- * Communicate using a variety of media and formats
 - * Access and exchange information in a variety of ways
 - * Compile, organize, analyze, and synthesize information
 - * Draw conclusions and make generalizations based on up-to-date information
 - * Learn content and locate additional information as needed
 - * Collaborate and cooperate in team efforts.
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How will the technology standards further statewide adult education program improvement?

The Maryland Adult Education Technology Standards specify the essential technology knowledge and skills that adults need to learn. This helps to ensure that all adult education learners across the state have the same opportunity to benefit from the use of technology in instruction.

The clearly defined, measurable technology standards bring a focus and coherence to adult education by providing a guide to instructional excellence. The program improvement timeline includes strategies, professional development, and program accountability.

Who developed the Maryland Adult Education Technology Standards?

A committee of adult education teachers and administrators, adult learners, representatives of Maryland's business community, and instructional technology specialists developed the Maryland Adult Education Technology Standards. The standards were subjected to a rigorous review in which they were compared to widely respected state and national technology standards and examined by instructional technology and adult education experts.

Where can I get more information?

The Maryland Adult Education Technology Standards are available on the Maryland Adult Literacy Resource Center website at <http://www.research.umbc.edu/~ira/TechnologyStandards.pdf>.

For additional information, call the Adult Education and Literacy Services Branch, Division of Career Technology and Adult Education, Maryland State Department of Education, at 410-767-0162.