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May 7, 2020

TO: All NYSED EPE funded adult education programs

FROM: Robert Purga, Director, ACCES Adult Education Programs *Robert Purga*

SUBJECT: Changes made to the FY2020/2021 EPE Application

There were several significant changes and additions to the FY2020/2021 EPE Application. This memo serves as an overview of that information. All EPE programs are encouraged to review the application thoroughly and to respond accordingly to those areas that apply to their organization. Further detail in each of the following sections is contained in the application. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Marisa Boomhower (EPE@nysed.gov).

Due to the COVID-19 statewide pause, the 2020-2021 EPE application due date has been extended to June 15, 2020. Electronic copies with electronic signatures of the Superintendent or Chief Administrative Officer, will be accepted with the expectation that original hard copies will follow once available.

\$20 Million has been repurposed to support three new initiatives that are now exempt from NRS reporting:

- Fast Track High School Equivalency (HSE) preparation;
- National External Diploma Program (NEDP) High School Equivalency programming;
- NRS Level 1 ABE students as determined on the TABE 11 & 12 assessment.

Fast Track Math GRASP packets:

- Clarification for distribution of these packets and documentation required for students using them. Appendix 6 and 7 explains these processes in more detail.
- Fast Track Math GRASP Packets can now be used concurrently with GRASP/SMART Distance Education

National External Diploma Program (NEDP) High School Equivalency programming

There is no requirement to TABE test students before entering an NEDP program. These students are not subject to NRS performance measures. However, if a program chooses to adhere to NRS guidelines for NEDP students, they may do so and these students would then be included in the program's NRS reporting.

NRS Level 1 ABE students:

For all EPE programs, this cohort of students will no longer be included in NRS reporting.

EPE Program Component Worksheet:

The EPE Program Component worksheet has been updated to a summative document which is comprised of the seven (7) program component areas found in the EPE application. The seven components are: Traditional Adult Education Instruction, Distance Education Adult Education Instruction, Career and Technical Education, NRS Level 1, NEDP, Work Experience, and Fast Track.

NYSED Business Accountability portal:

AEPP will be utilizing NYSED's business portal to monitor and track the status and performance objectives of all EPE funded programs.

All required assessments must be administered in person:

Clarification: when a teacher provides the assessment, the teacher must be either NYSED Adult Education certified or K-12 certified and certified via the RAEN as a test administrator. If other staff provide the assessments, they must also receive training on each assessment and be certified through the RAEN center to administer the tests.

Intake Pilot:

NYSED is interested in programs offering a robust intake and orientation process to new students as they enter the program in FY2020/2021, interested programs may apply.

TACS Waivers:

TASC Waivers to generate EPE contact hours on eligible HSE preparation referred from their own preparation program and Waivers for EPE provider to claim EPE expenses for HSE test administration has been increased from .3 to .6 of 1%.

Services to Individuals with a High School Diploma or High School Equivalency Diploma

\$2.5 million set aside to serve individuals 21 years and older who have a United States high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma but "fail to demonstrate basic educational competencies." Commissioner's Regulations define failure to "demonstrate basic educational competencies" as scoring below National Reporting System (NRS) level 5 in Reading, Mathematics, or English as a Second Language.

Career and Technical Education Courses:

All current SED approved CTE courses need to be listed in the application section "Career and Technical Education Courses." This section has been revised to capture current CTE offerings and new CTE courses being proposed.

High School Equivalency Network:

All EPE programs providing HSE preparation services must attend and support the HSE Network meetings that will be convened by the local RAEN center.

Apprenticeship Network:

All EPE programs must attend and support the Apprenticeship Network meetings that will be convened by the local RAEN center.

cc: ACCES-Adult Education Regional Staff
Rosemary Matt, Accountability
RAEN Directors