

Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Community Colleges: An Opportunity for Collaboration

The West Virginia Adult Basic Education program and West Virginia community colleges have a unique opportunity to collaborate in a variety of ways to serve the needs of adult learners in the state. Several models of collaboration have been developed. These include the following:

Team- Teaching/Summer Model

A pre-college class is team-taught over the summer by both an adult basic education instructor and a community college instructor. This class would include both computer-assisted and small group instruction. The goal is to provide the essential basic (developmental) skills in a competency-based system to adults planning to attend college in the fall. These adults would then be ready to "hit the ground running" and would not have to spend hours and tuition on developmental courses.

Pre-College Assessment/Remediation Model

In this model the Adult Basic Education programs provide the specific community college basic skills assessment and needed remediation to adults planning to attend college. The assessments and instruction cycles can be ongoing. The basic skill classes would correlate the materials used with the competencies needed for college success. As in the previous model, the basic skill classes provided by Adult Basic Education could be taken by an adult in lieu of the more traditional developmental programs, thus saving the student time and money.

Adult Transitions Model

In this third model, the local Adult Basic Education program would provide an Adult Transitions class. Adults enrolled in these classes would gain both developmental (basic) and essential life skills to prepare them for success in college. The SPOKES Work Process Skills materials may be a part of this program.

Four to Get Ready Model

A fourth model is one in which the community college provides classroom space on campus for an Adult Basic Education class. This class could serve multiple purposes including: (1) GED preparation and basic skills review as a recruitment tool for adults interested in enrolling in community college but in need of a high school credential; (2) individualized instruction for adults scoring extremely low on college placement tests - too low for developmental courses; (3) supplemental instruction for adults having difficulty in developmental courses; and (4) specialized courses in workplace skills such as job search, resume writing, interviewing, and WorkKeys® preparation.