

Transition Planning in Massachusetts

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NRS

National Reporting System
for Adult Education

for Adult Education

How Transition (i.e., College and Career Readiness) Planning Began

- ▶ **2005 – Survey of ABE Staff and Students**
 - 70% of students surveyed had employment–related goals
 - Many of the staff surveyed said they didn't know how to support students around employment goals
 - Revelation to the ABE field that so many students had employment–related goals
- ▶ **2006 – OVAE monitoring visit**
 - We took a long, hard look at our data and outcomes; they didn't look very good
 - Students were getting stuck in the pre–ASE level (pre–GED); they weren't making learner gains, nor were they dropping out



First Steps

- ▶ ***2007–2008*** – Statewide Strategic Framework Process continued with focus groups, regional meetings, and messaging.
 - *Three major goals* for ABE in Massachusetts:
 - Access
 - Quality
 - Next Steps



- ▶ **2009** – Nellie Mae Educational Foundation funding for the creation of a state-level task force to develop policies to help students get to postsecondary education and beyond; we called it *Bridges to Success*
- ▶ **2010** – Policy to Performance (P2P) – Technical Assistance from OVAE to continue the work of *Bridges to Success*
- ▶ **June 2011** – Statewide CCR Summit to bring the three systems together (i.e., community college, ABE, and workforce development); this was the first time that all three systems were together in one room focusing on adult learners going to postsecondary education; and ***ABE led the summit!***



The RFP

- ▶ **2012 – Released open and competitive RFP for funding in FY13–17**
 - CCR focus
 - Contextualized curricula
 - Advising role with a clear CCR focus and the use of Education and Career Plans (ECPs)
 - Educational Leadership

Restructured Funding (i.e., *Adult Career Pathways programs*) that was targeted to career pathways



- ▶ ***2012* – State Funding for 8 pilot projects**

Key elements of the pilots:

- ▶ Collaboration with community colleges, career centers, an employer, and other ABE programs
- ▶ Expanded advising services and support for students
- ▶ Learning communities/cohorts
- ▶ Contextualized curricula in three key industry sectors: finance, healthcare, or clean energy (i.e., green jobs)



Where We Are Today

- ▶ ***2012/2013*** – pilot projects presented on best practices to the ABE field:
 - Focused, proactive advising
 - Collaboration
 - Contextualized curriculum
- ▶ ***2013*** – First year of funding in new funding cycle; programs are off to a good start; embracing CCR and proactive advising processes (e.g., use of ECPs); we're looking at curricula



How We Supported Our Programs

- ▶ Focused Kick-Off at ABE Directors' Meeting that highlighted promising practices
- ▶ National Trainers (e.g., STAR; TERC)
- ▶ Professional Development starting with math



How Successful We've Been – According to the Data

FY	Set the goal of Obtain GED/ADP (entire ABE cohort)	Set the goal of Enter PSE (entire ABE cohort)	Total student enrollment (12+ hrs of attendance)	% set GED/ADP goal (entire ABE cohort)	% set enter PSE goal (entire ABE cohort)	Set the goal of Obtain GED/ADP (ASE Levels)	Set the goal of Enter PSE (ASE Levels)	# of students in ASE Levels	% set GED/ADP goal (ASE Levels)	% set enter PSE goal (ASE Levels)
06	3352	535	18425	18%	3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
07	3689	674	19898	19%	3%	1272	196	2500	51%	8%
08	3708	661	18129	20%	4%	1466	267	2676	55%	10%
09	3946	625	17955	22%	3%	1901	264	2746	69%	10%
10	3922	558	16681	24%	3%	1820	240	2479	73%	10%
11	3703	537	16740	22%	3%	1775	226	2535	70%	9%
12	3229	526	18290	18%	3%	1616	233	2730	59%	9%



Our Greatest Challenges

Raising the quality and effectiveness of our current field

Professional Development

Tension between expected rigor and support for working conditions



Tips from Massachusetts

- ▶ Start with data and an impact statement
- ▶ Get CCR champions and national researchers and trainers to speak
- ▶ Get buy-in from the field
- ▶ Provide clear messaging
- ▶ Engage in a strategic planning process with 2 or 3 focused goals
- ▶ Align professional development with goals
- ▶ Share promising practices



*Facing the Future: MA Strategic Framework for ABE
2010-2015*

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/acls/sp>

ACLS website:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/acls/>

Appreciative Advising:

<http://www.appreciativeadvising.net>



Contact Information

Cheryl Ransom

Adult & Community Learning Services (ACLS)

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education (ESE)

cransom@doe.mass.edu

781-338-3876

