

Adult Education Report—September 2017

Enrollment Update

We are off to a good pace again this program year! Our data through August shows we have increased our walk-in traffic by 26% from this time last year, and our official enrollment is up 24% from August of 2016. We continue to see good numbers at many of our locations. One particular example is in Washington, where we had 40 students come to registration for our ESL classes.

Changes in Service Sites

We have changed some of our programming delivery sites and options in the first quarter of the 2018 program year. As you may know, Kirkwood Community College relocated its Cedar County Center in Tipton to a new location on the south edge of town. With this new space, we have changed our programming delivery in Cedar County, offering our adult diploma program, HiSET, and CASAS testing on site. Students interested in HiSET® preparation are being referred to other locations where classes are offered in the area.

We have also made the decision to discontinue HiSET® services at the Linn County Jail effective September 30th. In looking at our data, we are primarily serving offenders being housed at the jail for federal offenses. Those offenders will receive HiSET® services when they are placed into federal custody, and we were serving very few county offenders.

ESL programming in Monticello has been put on hold for the 2017-18 school year. Our enrollment the past two years has been very low. We also had a partnership with the Monticello Community School District to provide school-age services but with our numbers low, theirs were as well, so they are trying an after-school program this year. Eastern Iowa Community College is offering ESL classes in Cascade, which is less than 15 minutes from Monticello.

While we have changed programming in some locations, we are expanding services elsewhere, particularly in our ESL programming. We have added four sections of evening classes in Johnson County at the Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa, which doubles our evening class capacity in the Iowa City-Coralville area. We have also added staff in Washington where we had great turnout for our fall class registration.

HSED Options Statewide Set to Change

Last legislative session, HF473 was passed and signed into law, which expanded the options available to the Iowa Department of Education for granting High School Equivalency Diplomas. A working group of the High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) task force met in June and July

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to make proposals for additional diploma options, which includes a high school credit option, awarding a HSED based on the completion of a college degree, as well as awarding a HSED for students with college degrees from foreign countries. Proposed rules to enact these options were presented to the State Board of Education at the September meeting, and will be before the Legislative Rules Committee later this fall. If adopted, tentative effective date for these options will likely be July of 2018.

HSED Test Option RFP to be Released

The state of Iowa will also be working to release an RFP to rebid the state's test option for earning a High School Equivalency Diploma. In 2013, the state awarded Educational Testing Service (ETS,) providers of the HiSET®, as the sole test option in Iowa. The contract is coming to an end, so a rebidding process is necessary. The Department of Education is working to convene a committee to assist in this process.

Work on IET/IELCE Implementation

As part of WIOA implementation, adult education and literacy in Iowa is adopting Integrated Education and Training (IET,) as well as Integrated English Language and Civics Education (IELCE.) The state is providing technical assistance to Kirkwood Community College, as well as other community colleges in the state, on how these programs are designed and implemented.

Kirkwood's Adult Education program, in collaboration with WIOA Title I, the City of Cedar Rapids, the Cedar Rapids Public Library, and the Intercultural Center of Iowa, are currently working on the development of an IET program whose focus would be on warehousing and logistics for English Language Learners. Our goal is to offer this program as part of the launch of a Center for Working Families at the Ladd Library in Southwest Cedar Rapids. More details will be shared at future meetings on this project.