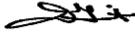




Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 8a
January 13, 2014

TO: Members of the RI Board of Education
FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 
RE: Adult Education Program Standards – Request for Approval

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has focused on standards-based education for adult learners for over a decade. Standards based education results in clearer expectations for students; consistency in curriculum, instruction and assessment; and the creation of professional development to help instructors develop the expertise to implement the standards. For these reasons, many policy-makers in the adult education sector have selected the Common Core State Standards as the basis for its College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards. Integrating these standards into adult education programs will provide adult students with the essential knowledge and skills to meet the real-world demands of employment and the opportunity for readiness for post-secondary education without needing remediation.

Adopting these College and Career Readiness standards for adult education programs will benefit Rhode Island in a variety of ways, including the promotion of:

- Student preparation for new assessment models using knowledge and skills identified by the CCSS required for the attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent;
- Consistent expectations between K-12 and adult education systems so all students – whatever their pathway to graduation – will have access to the preparation they need to enter credit-bearing freshman courses without a need for remediation;
- Student preparation for the knowledge and skills employers actually demand of prospective employees; and
- Partnerships between and among states and programs to combine financial resources and human capital to create common tools and materials to support implementation.

College and Career Readiness Standards timeline:

- **Fall, 2011 – Fall, 2012:** MPR Associates, under contract with the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, convened panels of experts in English Language Arts and Mathematics to select which Common Core State Standards are the most relevant and essential for adults;
- **April 2013:** “College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education” (Pimentel, 2013) was released to the public by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education;
- **Summer, 2013:** Rhode Island Adult Education Professional Development Center began training instructors on the CCR standards and the shift required in adult education teaching methodology;
- **November 7, 2013:** CCR Standards for Adult Education was brought to the Board of Education for discussion;
- **November 13, 2013:** Board of Education met and voted for a 30-day public comment period for the CCR Standards.

In the past months, RIDE engaged the adult education community of educators with training on the standards through the Adult Education Leadership Institutes and through the Adult Education Professional Development Center workshops.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves the Adult Education Program Standards, effective January 14, 2014, as presented.