

# First Mondays

Monthly Notes for Virginia's Adult Education Providers



January 7, 2013

Volume 4, Number 6

## Calendar



**Regional Specialist Meeting**  
January 23, 2013  
Roanoke

**VAILL 2013**  
July 10-12  
Radford University

**COABE National Conference**  
March 24-28, 2013  
New Orleans

## GED®



### December Numbers

**Tested - 3488**  
**Passed - 1168**  
**Incomplete - 894**

### 2012 Numbers

**Tested - 19,845**  
**Passed - 11,143**  
**Incomplete - 2,954**

Currently, a person can take the paper and pencil GED® Test three times OR the computer based test up to six times at a Pearson VUE testing center. By mid-year, these options will be combined. Watch for an announcement.

## Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center (VALRC) Update

Happy New Year from your partners at VALRC! This year promises to be a busy one. A continuing goal will be the strengthening of regional leadership teams, including the development of strategies that teachers can use to encourage students to complete and pass the current GED® test series. While getting the word out about the closeout of the 2002 series, VALRC will also develop and deliver training to prepare teachers for the substantial changes that the 2014 GED® series will bring.

VALRC continues to develop and present professional learning opportunities for adult educators throughout Virginia who must solve the problems they currently face and meet the challenges of the future.

A training we are excited about is a revised and updated version of the Teacher Observation Project which considers the questions “ what is good teaching in adult education, and what does it look like?”

### Certification

VAECP provides core training and certification opportunities in four strand areas: Program Manager, ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) Instructor, ABE/GED (Adult Basic Education/General Educational Development) Instructor, and Support Staff. Each strand is comprised of multiple sessions and levels. Participants are required to attend the training sessions and to complete personalized “afterwork” assignments that apply strategies from the training to their own practice.

### Regional Training

Our Training Coordinator, Jeffrey Elmore, will be happy to discuss trainings we can provide and work out all the logistics of bringing training to your region. He can be reached at 804-827-1929 or [jaelmore@vcu.edu](mailto:jaelmore@vcu.edu). Visit our Web site to take a look at the [training calendar](#) for the next six months.

## Money Matters



Second quarter match, program income, and State Lead Coordinating Agency (SLCA) reports are due January 10, 2013.

Race to GED and PluggedIn VA funds will be posted to OMEGA this month. OAEL is aware that the date of availability may not leave funded programs sufficient time to submit reimbursement requests for January. Thus, reimbursement requests submitted late, but within a reasonable amount of time after availability, will not negatively affect programs' report cards for January. Please remember that although requests may be submitted later than is usual, they must, as always, be free of errors.



**OAEL**

Phone: 804-225-2053

Fax: 804-225-3352

Please visit our [Web site](#) for more information about adult education and literacy in Virginia and for news and updates throughout the month.

## Media

VALRC maintains and distributes newsletters, listservs, Web sites, and Facebook and Twitter accounts. Our Web site address is <http://www.valrc.org>. In the future, we hope to launch communities of practice and expanded distance learning opportunities in areas of your special interests. Stay tuned!

We work closely with the Office of Adult Education and Literacy to ensure that our scope of work is relevant to the goals and needs of Virginia's adult education system. Let us partner with you in 2013 as we all work through the exciting changes. Our telephone number is (804) 828-6521 or (800) 237-0178.

Maurice Oliver, Assistant Manager  
Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center  
[moliver@vcu.edu](mailto:moliver@vcu.edu) 804-827-1234

## The Opportunity Index

[Opportunity Nation](#), in partnership with [Measure of America](#), has created the [Opportunity Index](#) as "the nation's only measure of what opportunity looks like at the state and county levels." As reported in the December 6, 2012 edition of *OVAE Connection*, "The index is designed to empower community leaders, engaged citizens, and elected officials at all levels of government with knowledge about what actions create an opportunity-rich environment and how their communities fare when compared to others in the country. Opportunity Nation plans to report index results annually so that communities and their leaders are able to track the progress of their efforts." The index ranks every state and assigns almost every U.S. county an Opportunity Score ranging from 'A' for excellent to 'F' for failing."

According to Chris Cashman, director of communications for Opportunity Nation, "The index has already helped begin to reshape the debate about economic mobility and opportunity in America. For example, the index shows an inverse correlation between the number of young adults aged 16–24 years old who are not connected to school or work, and the success of a community. There are nearly 7 million young adults who fall into this category, representing a wealth of untapped talent for the U.S. Opportunity Nation believes that, if we are to be competitive as a nation in the global economy, we need to make sure that all our young adults have the ability to 'climb the ladder of success,' and to do that we need to create new career pathways for young adults to access."



**Happy New Year**

