

First Mondays

Monthly Notes for Virginia's Adult Education Providers



September 8, 2014

Volume 6, Number 2

Calendar



2014 Regional Program Managers and EL/Civics Program Managers Meeting
September 22-23
Charlottesville

GED® Administrators Meeting
October 17
Virginia Beach

GED®



Resources for GED® 2014 information

[GED Credentialing™](#)

[Virginia's GED® Web site](#)

[VALRC](#)

[Online Forum for Virginia's 2014 GED® Instructors](#)

[GED® Testing Service](#)

[OAEL](#)

College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for Adult Education-Key Shifts and Advances

By Hillary Major, VALRC

The *College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education (CCRS)* gives a wealth of detailed information about the skills and knowledge adults need to be successful in technical training programs, colleges, and employment in the 21st century. Beyond providing expectations for students, the standards also promote six key, research-based shifts in instruction. The six "key advances" of the CCRS are:

English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy

- Shift 1 – **Complexity**: Regular practice with complex text and its academic language
- Shift 2 – **Evidence**: Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational
- Shift 3 – **Knowledge**: Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction

Mathematics

- Shift 1 – **Focus**: Focusing strongly where the standards focus
- Shift 2 – **Coherence**: Designing learning around coherent progressions level to level
- Shift 3 – **Rigor**: Pursuing conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application—all with equal intensity

CONNECTIONS TO THE 2014 GED® TEST

In many ways, the key advances provide a summary of what's different in the CCRS as opposed to past sets of standards. Aspects of these advances are built into the 2014 GED® test. New extended response items require students to grapple with complex texts and pick out evidence to support their own written arguments. Science and social studies tests now expect some background knowledge. Multi-step, "real world" math problems require test takers to be skilled in the three components of rigor.

Money Matters



One Stop reports are due
September 10, 2014
for FY 2013-2014.

FFATA reports are due
September 17, 2014.



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

ADVANCES IN ACTION

Looking for concrete examples of how the key advances can be applied in the classroom? Two observation guides, developed by national teams of experts, provide some guidance:

- ELA/Literacy: <http://tinyurl.com/elaobsguide>
- Mathematics: <http://tinyurl.com/mathobsguide>

Incorporating key advances won't happen overnight. Even some straightforward next steps – like building lessons around complex, content-rich nonfiction texts – require planning and practice on an instructor's part. The mathematics standards' emphasis on focus and coherence has implications that reach beyond the individual classroom to program design and class scheduling.

The CCRS will be a central focus of this month's Regional Program Managers and EL/Civics Program Managers Meeting, and OAEL and the Resource Center will continue to work together closely over the coming months to provide the field with support and guidance. We will be investigating national resources and lessons learned from other states' implementation programs as well as promising practices and success stories from our own regional and local programs, and we will be sharing information and professional development resources.

"See for Free"

Beginning on the morning of September 22, 2014 and running through midnight October 4, 2014, the GED Testing Service will sponsor the "See for Free" promotion in which adult education centers, correctional facilities, and ISAEP programs will be able to provide free access to students and testers to the GED Ready™ practice test. The GED Testing Service's goal is to encourage individuals to visit adult education facilities, receive information on the center's resources, and allow individuals to take the GED Ready™ test at that center or, if an ISAEP program, in the ISAEP classroom. Individuals and students must either establish a My GED™ account or have previously done so. Individuals taking advantage of this GED Ready™ opportunity will be required to complete the GED Ready™ prior to midnight October 4, 2014 though GED Ready™ scores will remain in the individual's dashboard. In addition, GEDTS has instituted a "Guaranteed to Pass" initiative. If testers take the GED Ready™ and score "Likely to Pass", GEDTS guarantees they will pass that GED® test subject. If they don't, GEDTS will pay for their retake. Testers must take the GED® test within 60 days of scoring "Likely to Pass" on GED Ready™ for the guarantee to be valid. More information will be furnished to regional program managers and ISAEP programs as it becomes available.