

NAEPDC

News, Views, and Clues

December 8, 2011

Teacher Credentialing Update

I wanted to give you an update on our teacher credentialing project.

A conversation with CoABE last spring led to the recurring discussion about teacher quality and the possibility of a national credential. A subsequent conversation with the McGraw Hill Education Services led to funding to formalize that discussion a bit.

Last August we sent you an NVC soliciting volunteers to serve on an ad hoc workgroup to explore the possibility of a national adult education teacher credential.

This fall that workgroup met in person and via webmeeting to explore options and opportunities.

The workgroup is comprised of two local teachers, two local directors (that CoABE identified), two state staff and two state directors (that NAEPDC identified), colleagues with expertise in one or more parts of this work, and McGraw Hill Education Services staff.

The workgroup members are:

- Local Teachers
 - Phyllis Shepperson (KY)
 - Lisa Mullins (TN)
- Local Directors
 - Renae Harrison (KY) and President of CoABE
 - Hector Martinez (KS)
- State Staff
 - Jessie Hawthorne (CO)
 - Marilyn Schmidt (IL)
- State Directors
 - Anne Serino (MA)
 - Marcia Hess (WY)
- Colleagues with expertise
 - Cris Smith (UMass) researcher in “how teachers change” and author of the recent CAAL publication on teacher certification
 - Bob Bickerton, Massachusetts’ Associate Commission of Education, whose duties include adult education as well as teacher certification
 - Mary Jane Schmidt researcher in adult numeracy
 - Jere Johnston with Project IDEAL with expertise in Distance Learning
 - Geri Mulligan and Beth Ponder with the Center for Literacy Studies with expertise in online records

Because OVAE has recently begun a project with AIR that will include identification of adult education teacher competencies, the workgroup decided to delay the development of a broad-based teacher credential until after that work is done—three years.

Rather, the initial development work will be on an adult education mathematics credential. This tack was chosen for a number of reasons:

1. Math scores on the GED ® Tests are problematic
2. Beginning with a more focused credential for which there is much research thanks to Mary Jane Schmidt's work, the credentialing system development process will be easier to tackle.
3. Once this mathematics credential is in place and the credentialing process is in place, the workgroup can turn to either a more general adult credential or to another specialty credential.

We have in place a White Paper (research) team, a Design Team to design the project and a Proposal Writing Team to secure the funds. The plan is to have the proposal funded by late spring, complete the development work by December 2012, and begin pilots shortly thereafter.

Needless to say, this project is both complex and critical.

We are all focusing on teacher quality and a credential is one tool in that arena.

If you have questions or suggestions, Bonnie Moore, NAEPDC Assistant Executive Director (bmoore@naepdc.org) or either of the state directors on the workgroup would Welcome your thoughts.

We will keep you posted as the project develops.

All NAEPDC News, Views, and Clues are archived at:

http://naepdc.org/news_views_clues/nvc_home.html

Keep up the good work. Let me know when we can help.

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