

Collaborating to Support Adult Learners

Lifelong Learning Advisory Committee

March 20, 2018

ONTARIO'S PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING ADULT EDUCATION

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

-  System Navigation
-  Common Intake and Identifier
-  Incentive Structure for System Coordination & Referral
-  Improve Financial Support
-  Recognition of Skills and Competencies

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

-  Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Improvement and Expansion
-  Ontario Bridge Training Program
-  Strengthening the Delivery of Language Training
-  Expanding Dual Credit Opportunities
-  Innovative Skills Training Pilots

Proposed Outcomes for Ontario & Ontarians

Opening doors for adult learners helps people in their everyday lives and contributes to a strong and inclusive economy.

Increased Access and Retention

Labour Market Resiliency

Education, Knowledge, Essential Skills and Competencies

Active Citizenship

Transition to Employment, Education and Other Learner-Driven Outcomes

Personal Success

Adult Credit Regional Partnerships

Regional Partnerships for Adult Education (RPAEs)

- The Ministry of Education made a commitment of \$9M to implement the Adult Credit Education Strategy through the formation of and implementation of the Regional Partnerships for Adult Education (RPAE).
 - In Year 1 (2016-17) the partnerships formed, conducted environmental scans and developed strategic plans.
 - In Year 2 (2017-18) they are beginning to implement those plans and are also working to deepen their collaboration between regional school boards and with other adult education providers.
- For 2017-18, seven RPAEs will also be piloting a variety of *Collaborative Projects to Support the Adult Learner Journey*. The purpose of these projects is to improve collaboration in the adult education system and foster more seamless and learner-centred program and service delivery for adults. The projects are locally-driven based on the evidence and priorities identified by each partnership through their strategic plan and environmental scan.

Themes of the RPAE Strategic Plans

The themes found in the RPAE strategic plans align with the pillars of a strong adult education system, as identified by MAESD, EDU, MCI and MCSS:

Learner-Centred Opportunities:

- Respond to the learning needs and aspirations of a diverse population of adult learners through innovative and flexible models of delivery.
- Professional development and alignment of program content based on data and learner needs.

Clear, Coordinated Pathways:

- Support learners' transitions through guidance and pathway planning supports.
- Improve system navigation through communication campaigns targeting learners.

Meaningful Outcomes:

- Increase availability of programs that more directly link to lifelong learning, employment goals and labour market requirements.
- Foster shared responsibility amongst school boards for adult learner outcomes.
- Develop outcome measures so that progress and success can be tracked.

Collaboration:

- Capacity building activities, such as professional learning and sharing of exemplary practices, information and data sharing amongst partner school boards.
- Outreach and partnership-building with community organizations.
- Development and implementation of representative and transparent governance structures.

RPAE Strategic Plans: Planned Activities

Sample planned activities outlined in the RPAE strategic plans include....

- Developing and implementing **innovative intake, assessment and referral** approach(es) using RPAE funding (2018-19) – *Eastern RPAE*
- Respond to the needs and aspirations of adult Indigenous, immigrant and newcomer learners through **targeted professional capacity building** in culturally relevant and respectful practices – *Southwest RPAE*
- A **communications strategy** aimed specifically at adult learners, to inform learners of their options, and route them towards their best pathway. –*Toronto RPAE*
- Virtual portal for **guidance and pathway planning** that will improve intake and referrals for learners modeled after educationworks.ca. –*Northeast RPAE*
- Improve alignment between service delivery and the needs of local employers; adapt current delivery modes to **learner and employer needs**. –*Central RPAE*
- **Engage relevant partners** at the central planning table (LBS providers, Employment Ontario, Ontario Works, and Indigenous Education Authorities). – *Northwest-Lakehead*
- Work with: MCI; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; EDU Adult and Continuing Education programs; and local settlement services to create a **regional model for language training**. – *Northeast RPAE*

Advice for Next Steps

- What ideas/advice do LLAC members have to inform the development of the implementation plan/framework?
- What do agencies/organizations need from the government in terms of support for local/regional collaboration and coordination?
- What advice, if any, would you like the Ministries to consider as they develop the DRAFT implementation plan/framework for discussion at the next LLAC meeting?

Next Steps - Government

- DRAFT implementation plan for continuing work to achieve the three government commitments, with focus on the learner:
 - Improve access to programs that match adults' individual foundational learning needs
 - Make transitions between programs smoother and simpler
 - Implement ways to recognize adult learners' prior learning and skills
- Bring DRAFT implementation plan to next LLAC meeting in September for further input and advice
- Key to the success of implementing the plan will be local/regional collaboration and coordination