



Thursday Notes

Office of Vocational and Adult Education
Troy R. Justesen, Ed.D., Assistant Secretary

To: State Directors of Adult Education
State Literacy Resource Center Coordinators
Secretary's Regional Representatives
Chief State School Officers
National Coalition for Literacy
Literacy USA
National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs



OMB Rates Adult Ed "Effective"

Assistant Secretary Troy R. Justesen announced today that the adult education State grant program OVAE administers has been rated "effective"—the highest rating a federal program can achieve—by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Only two ED programs have earned this rating. OMB uses a Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) to look at factors reflecting program performance. OMB recently used PART to re-evaluate the adult education State grant program. The program moved from its 2002 rating of "results not demonstrated" to "effective" in 2007 because it significantly improved performance measurement and outcomes. Programs rated "effective" must set ambitious goals, achieve results, be managed well, and improve efficiency. OMB uses the ratings to help develop funding levels for the President's budget, and Congress uses them in analyzing programs' return on investment for funding levels each year.

Praise from PART

Praise from OMB includes these kudos from PART. Adult education:

- Recruits, retains, and assists eight times as many people from its target population—at a lower cost—than all other related federal programs combined.
- Is achieving performance goals for high school completion, postsecondary education or training, and job retention.
- Is managed well through new quality standards, common assessment tools, and improved comparability of grantee performance data.
- Requires participants to advance the equivalent of two or more grade levels for a measurable learning gain, yet increased the percent of participants achieving learning gains consistently since FY 2000.
- Is investing in randomized controlled trials to find instructional strategies to enable learning gains in less than 12 months.

To see more praise for adult education, click on

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/summary/10000180.2006.html>

Check Your State's Spending

While you are getting your budget lined up, take a moment to review your State's 2005 State government finances from the Census. Check out detailed data for each State including revenue (such as taxes and federal aid), expenditures (such as police, fire and education) and cash and security holdings. Click on <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/state.html>.