P-16 Council

Inter-Agency Cooperation on Adult Basic Education Initiatives

- Policy to Performance Initiative
  - Funded by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education at USDE
  - to receive technical assistance in developing state policies to facilitate ABE transition to postsecondary education, training, and employment.

- National competition for the selection of 8 states.
  - Submitted application - October 19, 2009
  - Project began in March 2010
  - Project Period = 30 months, Through June 2012

- Current state initiatives that aided in selection of Texas
  - Texas education system focus on college and career readiness for all students
  - End-of-course exams required for graduation and measures of college readiness
  - The well-established P-16 Council and the 19 regional councils
  - An existing Tri-Agency Initiative
  - Statewide focus on higher education enrollment goals Through Closing the Gaps by 2015
  - TWIC strategic priority to promote linkage of workforce, education, and economic development

- Required State Team including:
  - Eight members with representatives from each partner agency TEA, THECB, and TWC, as well as TX LEARNS
  - includes data persons from each agency
  - and program managers
  - Have recently added TWIC to the team

- Team jointly developed the following Mission = Deliver a seamless, coordinated education system for adults that wholly integrates basic skills and workforce training to support Texas business and industry for a vibrant, economically competitive, and educated workforce.

- Now we are at the point of doing the “hard” work

- Objectives that we are working on include:
    1. Change perceptions of lack of coordination between the agencies through public relations activities.
        a. Develop a consistent message and protocol for its use = paradigm shift to an adult education “system”
        b. Hold joint stakeholder/stockholder meetings regarding policy development needs to collect input on initial policy concepts and comments on proposed rules.
        c. Increase visibility and contact with stakeholders/stockholders

    2. Establish communications mechanisms
        a. Identify all providers in Texas
        b. Identify a centralized contact mechanism for non-AEFLA funded providers.
        c. Develop a schedule and commitment to regular meetings of the P2P team to share information and assist each other

    3. Conduct a census of current policies and priorities.
        a. To determine : What are the gaps/overlaps
        b. What can be addressed through policy
        c. Barriers/obstacles to policy

    4. Align content standards and college readiness standards

d. Evaluate transition from adult ed to community college through THECB pilot projects.
e. Integrate workforce education and training into adult education classes
f. Integrate concurrent enrollment and acceleration in adult education and post-secondary education into new and existing programs.

5. Implement a transparent and unified client tracking system, integrated across agencies.

a. Build capacity of system to collect and report service data from other providers including non-AEFLA funded providers.
b. Trace students to see a progression to higher education and workforce.

- State Expectations
  1. Create and test new policies to support ABE/ESL transition to postsecondary education or employment
  2. Implement practices related to the policies
  3. Develop new/enhance existing relationships with state partners
  4. Work with P2P coaches and project staff in planning and implementing project activities
  5. Use a policy planning, implementation, and evaluation process that state staff can replicate for future policy development.

- As a result of the P2P project the tri-agencies are working on P2P activities but enhanced communication has already created additional ways that we are working together.
  1. To share information and expertise we are assisting each other in development and review of Requests for Proposals

2. Develop Career Pathways programs - Specifically, an Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (IBEST) model that pairs adult basic education instructor with professional-technical skills instructors in the college classroom to provide literacy education and workforce technical skills simultaneously.
3. Creating a career and transition counseling component to be embedded in Adult Education services.
4. Exploring the alignment of the Adult Education content standards with TX College Readiness Standards.
5. Jointly reviewing development of models for successful transition into college-level courses or upper tier developmental education.
6. Developing an integrated STATEWIDE data system with the ability to share program data across agencies.
7. Increasing collaboration at the local level between workforce boards, AEFLA funded and non-AEFLA funded adult education providers, community colleges, IHEs, and employers

- All accomplishments to date, have been made within existing resources and within the current agency budgets.