

News and Events - June 2007

Mid State RAEN

Distance Learning Workshops

*GED/Pre-GED
Connection*

June 14, 2007
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
GRASP

New Teacher Training
June 15, 2007
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Radisson Hotel
200 Genesee Street
Utica, New York

Program Managers Meeting

June 21, 2007
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

DoubleTree Hotel
6301 Rte 298
East Syracuse, NY

MID STATE REGIONAL ADULT
EDUCATION NETWORK
JAMES MATT, DIRECTOR

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Utica, New York 13501

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Message from Venu Thelakkat Literacy Assistance Center

This July New York State adult education programs will begin their transition to a 21st-century web-based data collection system, the Adult Student Information System and Technical Support (ASISTS). The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has contracted with the Literacy Assistance Center of New York City (LAC) to implement ASISTS and provide the necessary training and technical support.

The LAC has been managing the statewide data collection and analysis system for the past five years, using its Adult Literacy Information and Evaluation System (ALIES) software. This service has been offered as part of the professional development, technical assistance, and support that the LAC has provided to the adult literacy field for more than two decades. Last year staff members at more than 300 agencies serving more than 100,000 youths and adults attended LAC workshops and other training programs. Participants included classroom instructors, volunteers, and other staff members from agencies that offer adult basic education, English as a Second Language, GED preparation, workforce development, family literacy, and after school programs. The LAC also hosts the statewide multilingual literacy hotline and welcomes the adult literacy community to its computer-learning center and the city's largest resource library for literacy teachers.

Over the past five years the LAC has continually refined its ALIES software to meet the comprehensive information management needs of New York State's adult education programs. ASISTS will retain all of the data collection and NRS reporting capacity we have built into ALIES. It will also allow programs to generate and troubleshoot NRS reports at any time from any location and accommodate the information requirements of other funding streams, such as EPE, SASS, CTEDS and EA. The LAC will provide a comprehensive support system designed to make adoption and use of ASISTS as smooth as possible. Support will include a software and policy training program, technical support in various formats, and collaboration with NYSED to create and modify policy documents.

The transition to ASISTS will take place during the second half of 2007. Train-the-Trainer sessions will begin in June; beta testing of the software will start soon after. The Big Five School districts will start shifting to ASISTS this July and be fully equipped to use it by September. The rest of the state will initiate the process in September and be done by the end of November. Adoption will involve five stages:

- **Training of staff.** The LAC, in partnership with the Regional Adult Education Network (RAEN) will offer training in the ASISTS software for all program staff that will be using it.
- **Migration of data.** Programs will submit their existing data to the LAC; the ASISTS staff will transfer it to the ASISTS format.
- **Creation of user accounts.** The LAC will distribute information to program managers on the various security levels available so that they can decide which level each staff member involved in ASISTS work should have.
- **User activation.** The LAC will create accounts for the authorized users, who will then be able to log into the system, enter data, and run reports.

We at the LAC are very excited about the introduction of ASISTS, which combines all of the improvements we have introduced into ALIES over the past five years with new capabilities made possible by the Internet. We are confident that staff members at programs adopting ASISTS will share our enthusiasm as they see how much this web-based system can do, easily, quickly, and efficiently.

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Pre-GED/GED Connection

PBS LiteracyLink's GED Connection is a stand-alone multimedia learning system that helps adult learners advance toward their GED and improve skills needed at the workplace. Combining video programs, print, and online computer technology, GED Connection helps learners develop strategies and practice for success on the GED exam and beyond. Used in the classroom or in an EPE approved Distance Learning Model, the integrated multimedia components work together to make studying for the GED easy for a busy adult who needs to work at his or her own pace. Included in this training are the requirements for NYSED approved programs to collect EPE for GED Connection delivery.

Lunch is provided.

Teacher Guides available for \$27.00

June 14, 2007

9 am to 3 pm

Radisson Utica Hotel

GRASP

All new GRASP teachers are required to be GRASP certified by NYSED.

In this new GRASP training, teachers will be introduced to the GRASP manual, and will become acquainted with GRASP regulations and materials to begin and sustain a quality GRASP program.

This is designed for new GRASP teachers only, this is not re certification.

Those also welcomed to attend are practicing GRASP teachers that were trained by the teacher leaving that job.

Lunch is provided.

June 15, 2007

9 am to 3 pm

Radisson Utica Hotel

Program Managers Meeting

Program Managers Meeting agenda will include an update from New York State Education Department (NYSED) on initiatives for Fiscal Year 07/08, and a demonstration of the Adult Student Information System and Technical Support (ASISTS), the new required web based data management system, presented by Rosemary Matt & Nell Eckersley

Lunch is provided.

June 21, 2007

9 am to 1 pm

DoubleTree Hotel, Syracuse