



March 19, 2020

Colleagues,

The coronavirus has dramatically upended lives. Adult education students are vulnerable as programs close and teachers scramble to find alternative ways to provide instruction during this extended shut down. While program visits are curtailed, all members of the state adult education team are available and may be contacted by email, telephone, or text.

Adult education policies, procedures, and timelines are being evaluated, and depending on the length of the shutdown, more changes may be required to better serve programs and students during this time. The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) plans to provide guidance throughout the emergency.

While there is so much uncertainty, please reassure students that they can continue their education through distance education and e-learning. The adult education distance learning policy allows programs and teachers flexibility to serve Indiana students beyond traditional classrooms. View the distance learning policy at [https://www.in.gov/dwd/files/2017-14-P\\_Distance\\_Education.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dwd/files/2017-14-P_Distance_Education.pdf).

This is an excellent opportunity to evaluate and try new products with little or no cost and to expand distance learning opportunities when classrooms reopen. To assist in the evaluation of products, the professional development team compiled a list of distance education resources (attached) for teachers to use. While a webinar is planned in April, reach out if you have questions or concerns as we move forward. In the meantime, below are reminders and updates.

- The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has decided to **waive the 60-day time limit for HSE testing** (High School Equivalency Testing, DWD Policy 2019-01). Any candidate who has sat for the HSE test from January 17, 2020, on and has not completed all five tests shall have the 60-day time limit waived. This waiver shall remain in effect until further notice.
- The **IAACE conference**, scheduled for April 22-24, 2020, has been rescheduled for **June 22-24, 2020**, in French Lick.
- The state team will host a **webinar** addressing the coronavirus and the impact on adult education on **April 15, 2020, 10 a.m. EST**. A registration link will be sent.
- DWD has **extended the deadline** for the **Multi-Year Adult Education Competitive Grant Application (Request for Application)** submissions. This change also applies to the **Multi-Year Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Grant Application (Request for Application)**. Applications for adult education and IELCE grant funding are due to DWD by **Friday, April 10, 2020, 5 p.m. EST**. Continue to check <https://www.in.gov/dwd/2909.htm> and emails for updates as this situation changes.

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