

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 07-01

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Associate Directors
DCS Field Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Susan V. Lawler, Director
Division of Career Services

Date: January 8, 2007

Subject: **Focus Groups for ABE (Adult Basic Education) Strategic Plan**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce development partners of a series of regional meetings to solicit input for the development of the Massachusetts Strategic Plan for Adult Basic Education.

Background: Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) at the MA Department of Education (DOE) will conduct a series of regional meetings (based on SABES regions, but inclusive of specific workforce development regions) in January and February to review data related to ABE program services and to solicit input with regard to the Massachusetts' Strategic Plan for Adult Basic Education. Information from the ABE field and its range of stakeholders, including workforce development representatives, is being sought with respect to the development of the Commonwealth's Strategic Plan for Adult Basic Education to be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education. (*See schedule attached*).

A broad sampling of stakeholder input is needed, inclusive of representatives of the Massachusetts workforce development system. Materials that include a meeting agenda, a 5-page summary spreadsheet of statewide/regional data, and a 12-page graphic summary of statewide/regional data (with differences noted) will be forwarded to registered participants (see below) prior to each meeting.

Prior to the meeting, participants should review the materials and reflect on the following questions:

- What are the most important needs related to adult residents' roles as worker, family member, community member, and lifelong learner that the state should address through its ABE policies? Why?
- What do we need more of, less of, or the same to meet those needs? Why?
- What do you think will be the hardest thing to accomplish to meet those needs? Why?

Action

Required: WIB Directors, Title I Administrators, Career Center Directors and other local workforce development partners are encouraged to participate in regional ABE Strategic Plan meetings. Sign up through ACLS/DOE as identified below. Those who sign up for participation will receive the materials described above.

Inquiries: To sign-up or if you have questions, contact Anne Holbrook, Community Planning Specialist, Adult and Community Learning Services, MA Department of Education at 781-338-3830 or at aholbrook@doe.mass.edu .