National Coalition For Literacy

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education ▫ Adult Literacy Media Alliance ▫ American Council on Education, GED Testing Service ▫ American Institutes for Research ▫ American Library Association ▫ Center for Literacy Studies, University of Tennessee ▫ Commission on Adult Basic Education ▫ Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy and the Goodling Institute for Research, Pennsylvania State University ▫ International Reading Association ▫ National Center for Family Literacy ▫ National Council of State Directors of Adult Education ▫ ProLiteracy Worldwide ▫ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. ▫ World Education

The National Center for Adult Education, Literacy, and Workforce Skills (The Center) Policy Principles

An innovative proposal to advance our nation through adult education

Vision:

To advance adult education through the creation of a Center that will be the leading provider of the research and resources necessary to improve practice and provide high quality services to the adult education community and those they serve. The Center will support high quality research, advance use of technology innovations for teaching and learning, link adult education with 21st century skills, and facilitate collaborations across government agencies to ensure that all adults have the literacy skills necessary to successfully participate in all aspects of daily life.

Purpose:

The Center will provide national leadership with the goals of improving the skills and knowledge of adults in the US and preparing them for transition to postsecondary education, training, and the 21st century workforce by:

- Coordinating efforts to address current and future critical issues, such as health literacy, immigration, financial literacy, and career pathways, by:
    - Collaborating with federal, state, local government agencies, including but not limited to the Departments of Labor, Education, HHS, Justice, Homeland Security, Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture.
    - Collaborating with other national organizations with a vested interest in issues related to adult education.
    - Building partnerships with the private sector and initiating policies and plans that will increase public and private support for adult education.
- Supporting, identifying, disseminating and providing national leadership for professional development focused on effective, innovative practices that draw on a range of research and professional wisdom.
- Advancing technology in order to provide tools and resources for practitioners and professional development.
- Promoting initiatives that increase the professional quality of the field.

The Center will accomplish these purposes by:

- Being an objective, nonpartisan resource to Congress and the Administration.

- Establishing and maintaining a research center that will:

    - Develop a comprehensive, national research agenda to move the field forward.
    - Engage institutions of higher learning in adult education research initiatives.
    - Create a central repository to collect and disseminate adult education research findings and effective and innovative practices.

- Establishing and maintaining a technology center that will:

    - Expand access to adult education services through the use of technology.
    - Provide professional development for providers of adult education, literacy, and workforce skills services so that they are able to—
        - Effectively use technology in the delivery of adult education, literacy, and workforce skills services; and
        - Improve the quality of instruction and accelerate the achievement of basic educational skills, English language literacy, and secondary school equivalency or postsecondary educational and training readiness for adult learners.
    - Assist States in developing a 21st Century delivery system for adult education, literacy, and workforce skills services.
    - Assist adults in developing technology literacy.

- Establishing a comprehensive information and communications system that will:

    - Foster information sharing and opportunities for discussion and networking among practitioners and provide technical assistance.
    - Link research findings to practice and inform research through practice.
    - Update the field of developments from the public and private sectors relevant to the adult education community.

- Establishing an initiative to promote increasing the professional quality of the field that will:

    - Provide professional development and technical assistance for improving professional quality, career advancement and working conditions of/for practitioners.
    - Undertake other activities that result in the improvement of adult education separately or in partnership with other government, public, and private entities.