



National Reporting System

NRS Policy for Distance Education

Contact Hours, Assessment and Reporting

State Adult Education Directors'
Annual Meeting, Bethesda, MD

November 16, 2006

Need for Policy

1. Measurement of contact hours is different for distance education learners.
2. Pre- and posttesting is problematic for learners who are not physically present.
3. Separate reporting of contact hours and performance for distance learners is needed.



Development Process

- Project IDEAL work
- NRS Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Draft Policy Recommendations and NRS Guidelines
- Reviewed by TWG
- Comments from state directors



Contact Hours

- Direct contact hours
 - Some direct contact is needed for orientation, goal setting and assessment
 - For distance learners, can also include contact with program through telephone, e-mail, online communication, software, where learner is identifiable.
 - Both types of contact can be counted and applied toward 12 hours



Proxy Contact Hours

- Measured and reported *optionally*
- Use proxy development models
 - Clock time model
 - Teacher judgment model
 - Learner mastery model
- Appropriate model for each distance education curriculum



State Distance Education Policy

- Required if state uses proxy hours
- Must describe:
 - Curricula used for distance education
 - Model used to develop proxy hours
 - Hours for each activity (teacher judgment) or unit (mastery)
 - Procedures used to develop proxy hours
- Report policy in Data Quality Checklist



Assessment

- All NRS pre- and posttests in person at a secure, proctored location in the state
- Follow state NRS assessment policy
- Posttest time must be the same as for non-distance learners
- Posttest time by proxy hours, if state uses them
- If no proxy hours, state must determine how to set posttest time
- State assessment policy must describe procedures



Reporting to the NRS

- Report all learners and hours (proxy and direct) in Table 4
- Separate table for distance learners only, same as Table 4
- OVAE data system will create a separate table for traditional learners (with distance learners separated out)



Next Steps

- Comments from this meeting
- Revision to policy
- Review by NRS TWG
- OMB approval for new policy and tables
- Implementation

