

# World Education/U.S.

Strengthening the Effectiveness of Adult Education



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### **Performance Based Funding for Adult Education Results: Support for What We Value** *by Luanne Teller*

In October, I was invited to represent World Education's [SABES](#) Central Resource Center at the [Annual Centre for Literacy Fall Institute](#) in St. John, New Brunswick. The Institute explored social finance and other innovative funding models, focusing on how these models might apply to literacy and essential skills programs in the community and workplace.

My presentation addressed issues related to performance-based funding, including key conditions for success, opportunities, and challenges. Specifically, the discussion focused on a jobs skills training program I managed that was designed to move adults off of public assistance and into full time jobs with benefits and family sustaining wages. Over time, we developed systems that led to placing 92% of students in full-time employment with benefits.

Many of our adult learners are among our most vulnerable populations. For them, adult education is their last best hope. Students who “show up”, work hard, and are committed to improving their lives deserve programs that are going to deliver on their promises. If we cannot—or will not—help them, where will they go? Who are we willing to leave behind? Those of us who have worked directly with adult learners understand the significance of these questions.

Whatever our intentions, the answers to these questions are directly impacted by the day-to-day choices we make about how to fund, implement, and manage our programs. Read the [Think Paper](#) about performance-based funding developed for the Institute for more on this topic.

[ProfessionalStudiesAE](#)

[System for Adult Basic Education Support \(SABES\)](#)



## Our Mission

In the U.S., our mission at World Education is to strengthen the effectiveness of educators, organizations, and systems to support adults, older youth, and communities to thrive. We hope our resources help bring best practices and inspiring content to the adult education classroom and beyond.

## Contact Us

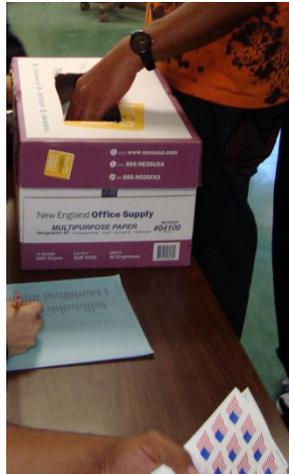
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## Mock Election Results Predict Election Outcome



Despite Hurricane Sandy, almost 6000 adult learners from adult education centers across New England participated in [mock elections](#) designed to prepare them for casting real ballots on election day. According to this sample of adult students, President Obama would win by a large majority (84%), Massachusetts would not allow life-ending medication for the terminally ill or the medical use of marijuana, Rhode Island would allow casino gambling in Newport, Maine would keep its ban on gay marriage, and several states would pass bond initiatives. As we all know, Obama was re-elected. The mock election's other results didn't all predict the actual outcomes though, as Massachusetts did pass medical marijuana use, and Maine did pass same-sex marriage.

The mock elections were coordinated by the non-partisan [Voter Education, Registration, and Action \(VERA\) campaign](#), which aims to educate adult students about the electoral process, help them learn about the campaign issues and ballot questions, and mobilize them to participate in the democratic process. The mock elections also provide an opportunity for hundreds of immigrants who cannot vote to learn how electoral politics work in the United States.

VERA, a project of the New England Literacy Resource Center at World Education, is one response to statistics showing that adults who have not completed a high school education are the least likely to vote. In the 2010 election, only 25% of U.S. adults lacking a high school diploma voted compared to 39% of high school graduates and 60-70% of adults with a college or advanced degree.

During the past four federal elections, VERA has provided resources that help adults discuss the civic issues that matter to them, research candidate views on those issues, analyze campaign advertising, and learn about voter rights and responsibilities.

On election day, hundreds of newly-registered adult learners voted for the first time, eager to exercise this right and to see how the actual state and national results compare to their mock election tallies.

**LINCS**  
Literacy Information and Communication System

## New Blog! Tech Tips for Teachers

[Tech Tips for Teachers](#) is a blog by Steve Quann and Leah Peterson of World Education for the LINCS Region 1 Professional Development Center. The goal for the blog is to provide a resource to adult education teachers and tutors who are interested in integrating technology into their instruction, but are not sure where to start. Take a look and send us your feedback.

# THE CHANGE AGENT

An Adult Education Newspaper for Social Justice

## Classroom Activity from the Resilience Issue

To be more resilient—to stay in school despite setbacks—students need to remember all that is "right" with them—even as they struggle to improve what may be lacking. When teachers approach students with a strengths-based perspective, students get an opportunity to affirm what they have done well and they can think about how to leverage their strengths to meet their goals. Marco Albarran, a GED student in Kansas City, MO, was a high school dropout. But that's not all he was. He took care of his family when his father died. He helped support his mother and two sisters so they could finish their education. He was a "family care-taker" and an "income-earner." [Use his story](#)—told in his own words—and a simple activity with labels to support your students to identify strengths that apply to them.



NATIONAL COLLEGE TRANSITION NETWORK

## College Readiness for English Language Learners Webinar Series

*Program Design and Implementation: Focus on El Paso's Experience* presented by Susan Tollefson, El Paso Community College and Mata Edward, EPCC, Tuesday, December 4, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM [EST]

The cost of participation is \$49 per webinar. Special rates available for [NCTN members](#). For more details or to register, visit our [website](#).

2013



2013

## Save the Date!

Once again, World Education is a partner for the [U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy \(USCAL\)](#). USCAL 2013 will take place **October 31-November 2, 2013** at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

## Call for Proposals!

The USCAL planning team is looking for presentations that share proven successful strategies and practical tools for adult literacy instruction, program management and leadership, and advocacy. We are particularly interested in presentations focused on improving or expanding instruction for adults in literacy, basic education, English language learning, or citizenship programs. All proposals must be submitted [online](#) by **December 14, 2012**.

If you have questions, please contact [conference@proliteracy.org](mailto:conference@proliteracy.org).

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