

NRS Changes for PY 2012

State directors, adult education stakeholders, and staff of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) met in August 2010 to discuss proposed changes to the NRS. Using participant input from the meeting, OVAE decided to make changes related to reporting of the follow-up measures and to add new measures to the NRS. OVAE presented the recommended changes for further input and comment from state directors and then submitted a revised data collection request for the changes to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Following a period of public comment in early 2011, OVAE made additional refinements and OMB approved the changes, which will become effective for the Program Year beginning July 1, 2012 (PY 2012). This *NRSTips* summarizes the forthcoming changes

Automatic Cohort Designation for Follow-Up Measures

The NRS has required that states report on the follow-up measures of entered and retained employment, attainment of a secondary credential and entry into postsecondary education or training for students who set these outcomes as goals for their participation. NRS will *discontinue the use of goal-setting* as a means to identify students to track attainment of the follow-up outcomes. Instead, NRS will require states to automatically report the follow up measures for all students who meet certain criteria for each measure. This automatic cohort designation will vary according to each follow-up measure.

- ◆ **Entered employment.** States will report this measure for learners who are *unemployed and in the labor force* when they entered the program and who exit during the program year.

- ◆ **Retained employment.** States will report this measure for learners who were not employed at time of entry and in the labor force, who enter employment by the first quarter after exit quarter; and learners employed at entry who exit during the program year.

- ◆ **Obtain a secondary credential.** States will report this measure for learners who *take all GED tests, or are enrolled in adult high school at the high ASE level, or are enrolled in the assessment phase of the External Diploma Program (EDP)*, who exit during the program year.

- ◆ **Entry into postsecondary education or training.** States will report this measure for learners *who earned a secondary credential while enrolled in adult education, or who had a secondary credential at entry, or who are enrolled in a class specifically designed for transition to postsecondary education or training*, who exit during the program year. In addition, reporting period for this measure is extended to two years (see below).

New Student and Teacher Measures

The NRS will add two new measures for state reporting.

- ◆ **Students' highest educational level or degree attained.** States will report for each student the highest level of U.S. or non-us-based schooling or degree attained.
- ◆ **Teacher experience and certification.** States will report the number of years of teaching experience and credentials attained for each teacher.

Changes in Reporting Period for Entry Into Postsecondary Education or Training Measure

The time period for reporting the entry into postsecondary measure has been extended to two years. Under the new requirements, the reporting period for this measure will be from the time the learner exits to the end of the following program year. For example, for students entering in PY 2012, the reporting period will extend through the end of PY 2013 (i.e., June 30, 2014). The reporting periods for collecting the other follow-up measures, entered and retained employment and attainment of secondary credential, are unchanged.

Reporting Procedures

Tables 5, 5a, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be revised to accommodate these changes. However, data collection procedures are unchanged for the follow-up measures and all other NRS measures and data collection procedures are unchanged.

Effective Date

The changes will become effective beginning in PY 2012 (July 1, 2012) for reporting December 31, 2013.

Additional Resources

For more information on NRS reporting or for answers to questions, visit <http://www.nrsweb.org> or e-mail: NRS@air.org. Local program staff should first consult their state office for their state policy.

NRS Tips is a quick reference tool for state staff, program directors, and adult education teachers. *NRS Tips* are written and produced by the staff at the **American Institutes for Research (AIR)**, a nonprofit research and policy organization (see <http://www.air.org>), under contract with the **Division of Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL)** of the **U.S. Department of Education**.

