

MAY UPDATES

GRADUATION REMINDERS

State and local staff may plan and attend graduation ceremonies on state time and charge that time to federal, state or local matching funds. This would also include mileage and parking costs incurred by state and local staff. However, federal, state and local matching funds may not be used for food, beverages, caps, gowns, tassels, plaques, decorations, or entertainment. These are only some examples, not an exhaustive list, to illustrate expenses that are prohibited.

SAVE the DATE

The annual Aspire Administrators' meeting will be August 14th at the Embassy Suites Airport, Columbus. We will have about 30 additional seats if you'd like to bring another person from your program. After the administrators sign up, we'll open registration for additional staff on a first come - first serve basis until the seats are filled. Registration for administrators will be in June. Details forthcoming.

TABE CLASE-E

The Aspire state office is still planning to move to one common ESL assessment, CLAS-E, but we do not know when full implementation will be required. Based on the information below from Mike Johnson, National Adult Education Director at Data Recognition Corporation, all adult education ESOL assessments must align to the new ESL Descriptors, and then the tests must be reviewed and approved by the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS). That process should be completed by 2019 or 2020.

Mike Johnson: *"Knowing that the ESL Descriptors in the Appendix of the [NRS Technical Assistance Guide](#) (B-19) are finalized, our next step is to compare these descriptors to the current CLAS-E Objectives to see what if any changes we need to make to CLAS-E to be fully aligned to the new Descriptors. We then would apply (reapply) on October 1st of 2018 or 2019 for NRS approval under the new Descriptors. October 1 is the annual date when Test Publishers are allowed to submit applications for approval so we are limited on when we can apply. The review process for a new test can take anywhere from 8-12 months based on past reviews.*

The Aspire office chose CLAS-E based on feedback from teachers who had experience with other ESL assessments and could offer suggestions. Here are some benefits to using CLAS-E:

- Only assessment that assesses all four ESOL skill areas (reading, writing, speaking, listening)
- Only assessment with an ESOL writing component
- Assesses all six NRS ESL levels
- Scores are linked to TABE 9/10 for transitions into an ABE class
- 40 hours minimum instructional hours before posttesting
- Competency-based test
- Diagnostic Profiles identify competency mastery and outstanding needs in order to guide goal-setting and instruction.
- Teacher Resource Guide Volume 1 provides guidance and information on ESL methodology, content and strategies for interpreting and using score results.
- Teacher Resource Guide Volume 2 helps target instruction to student needs with reproducible lesson plans on work, education and community tasks that are aligned to the competencies.

DISABILITY DATA IN YOUR COUNTY

You may have already seen this on WorkforceGPS. Interesting data.

Title: [New Release – County-level Disability Prevalence Reports](#)

Want to learn about disability prevalence in your local area? ETA is pleased to highlight the newly released [State Reports for County-level Data](#), which provide statistics on the number of people with disabilities for over 3,000 counties in the United States. Each State report includes counts and percentages broken down by county in tables and maps. This builds off the 2017 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium.

If you have any questions about the content in these Updates, please contact your ODHE program manager.