



**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
Adult Basic and Literacy Education
Division of Adult Education and Literacy**

FACT SHEET SERIES

National Diffusion of the Standards-In-Action Innovations

Background

The purpose of standards in adult education is to provide high quality education to all and to enable students to reach their goals. The *Standards-In-Action (SIA)* innovations enable state and local programs to deliver professional development to instructors on organizing curriculum and instruction to help students achieve those goals. The *SIA* methods and materials were developed in collaboration with eight pilot states committed to standards-based education (KS, LA, MA, MD, OK, RI, TX, VA). State teams implemented the draft *SIA* innovations using their state standards in one of the core academic areas – reading, mathematics, or English language acquisition. Feedback from the states enabled the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) to refine the tools for dissemination to other states. The *SIA* development process lasted from 2006 to 2009. This new project signals readiness on the part of OVAE to roll out the *SIA* Innovations.

Overview

The National Diffusion of the *SIA* Innovations addresses four priority areas of standards-based reform: 1) building instructors' understanding of the standards taught; 2) translating the standards into curriculum; 3) aligning student assignments to standards; and 4) assessing the extent to which instructors are teaching to the standards and using effective instruction. In addition to increased instructor understanding and ownership of standards, the *SIA* innovations result in several products that further define standards for instructors who may be wrestling with effective implementation. The *SIA* innovations have enough built-in flexibility so that programs can modify them to suit their own style to ensure that *SIA* will be relevant to the field they serve.

Ten states will participate in this 24-month project to learn how to implement the four *SIA* innovations. Participant states will receive assistance to develop and carry out plans for using the *SIA* methods and materials with staff in two local programs; they will also find out how to take the *SIA* innovations to scale in their states. MPR Associates, Inc. through a contract with OVAE, manages the diffusion project. Project activities include four national workshops and six Webinars.

Project Milestones

- States selected, December 2009
- Four national workshops and six Webinars conducted, 2009-2011

Outcomes and Products

Twenty programs in ten states employ the *SIA* innovations to support the implementation of standards-based education; ten states know how to scale up the *SIA* innovations in their states.

Contact

Ronna Spacone Ronna.Spacone@ed.gov