



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

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**FACT SHEET SERIES**

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## **Standards-In-Action: Support for State Implementation of Standards**

### **Background**

*Standards in Action* builds upon past efforts by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), to promote state-level institutionalization of adult education content standards and standards-based education reform. OVAE's earlier efforts included the development of technical assistance to states; *A Process Guide for Establishing State Adult Education Content Standards* <<http://www.adultedcontentstandards.ed.gov/howto.asp>>; the Adult Education Content Standards Warehouse <<http://www.adultedcontentstandards.ed.gov/default.asp>>; and technical assistance to states. Now *Standards-In-Action*, which began in 2006, is producing a series of professional development materials for future dissemination and replication to help program staff at the state and local levels acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to implement effective standards-based education. The *Standards-In-Action* training materials are designed to improve the capacity of adult education programs to use standards as guidelines for instruction and program improvement.

### **Overview**

MPR Associates, Inc. through a contract with OVAE is developing the *Standards-In-Action* materials. The educational innovations are organized into four priority areas for professional development: 1. building teachers understanding of their standards; 2. translating standards into curriculum and instruction; 3. focusing on the relevance and alignment of classroom assignments; and 4. implementing standards-based systems of classroom observation. To test the draft *Standards-In-Action* materials, OVAE has piloted the innovations in collaboration with two groups of six states using their standards in reading, mathematics, or English language acquisition. The *Standards-In-Action* materials will be refined based on lessons learned from the pilot activities, and then finalized for dissemination to other states in October 2009.

### **Project Milestones**

- Conduct a pilot of the first two *Standards-In-Action* innovations, February 2007 to March 2008
- Conduct a pilot of the second two *Standards-In-Action* innovations , April 2008 to May 2009

### **Outcomes and Products**

*Standards-In-Action* professional development materials that:

- Build teachers' understanding of standards and the organization of standards-based teaching.
- Enhance teachers' ability to translate their standards into instruction and curriculum.
- Help teachers strengthen the relevance and alignment of classroom instruction to standards.
- Assist program administrators to monitor how teachers are using standards in the classroom.

### **Web site**

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/stndassess.html>

### **Contact**

Ronna Spacone: [Ronna.Spacone@ed.gov](mailto:Ronna.Spacone@ed.gov)

