

ADULT EDUCATION STRATEGY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

The Ministry of Education Adult Education Strategy supports the commitment made in *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education* to “ensure that the adult education system better supports adult learners in their efforts to finish high school and successfully transition to postsecondary education, training or the workplace.” The strategy provides an opportunity to explore innovative ways to reengage adult learners and build school board capacity to better assist them in achieving their goals.

The three objectives of the Ministry of Education Adult Education Strategy are as follows:

- Promote a regional and more collaborative approach among school boards to foster a shared responsibility for adult learning that will improve accountability for learner outcomes.
- Ensure availability of a wide range of accessible program delivery options and supports that are responsive to adult learner needs.
- Improve the transitions for learners between Ministry of Education adult credit programs and programs funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

The seven Regional Partnerships for Adult Education (RPAEs), which include six regional, English-language partnerships and one province-wide, French-language partnership, will promote a regional and more collaborative approach among school boards and foster a shared responsibility for adult learning that will improve accountability for learner outcomes. Each partnership receives provisional funds from the Province to support regional strategic program objectives, pending the terms and conditions set out under Ontario Transfer Payment RPAE Agreements.

The four key areas in scope for the Ministry of Education Adult Education Strategy are as follows:

1. Regionally coordinated access to flexible delivery of EDU Adult and Continuing Education programs and/or services (e.g., e-learning or hybrid delivery programs) that best meet adult learner needs.
2. Access to coordinated information, intake, assessment, and referrals at school boards to ensure learners are directed to the program or service that best meets their needs.
3. Regionally coordinated access to consistent Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students working towards a high school diploma.
4. Regional guidance, career counselling and pathway planning for mature students working towards a high school diploma or seeking prerequisites for postsecondary education.

The Eastern Regional Partnership for Adult Education

This Transfer Payment Agreement reflects the Terms of Reference agreed to by member school boards of the Eastern RPAE. The Terms of Reference will be attached to this Transfer Payment Agreement.

As articulated in the Terms of Reference for the Eastern RPAE, the following guiding principles underpin the regional partnership's focus on developing a culture of collegiality and shared responsibility:

- The regional partnership will advance the Ministry's goal for Adult Education in Ontario through existing authority and accountability structures.
- This effort does not entail changes to service delivery models.
- Member school boards within the partnership will strive to identify, acknowledge, and apply the partnership's full range of capabilities, within the region to improve their productivity and value to adult learners.
- Member school boards will not engage in activities that will disenfranchise another school board's adult education program.
- Disputes pertaining to adult education will be resolved through documented consensus of member school boards.

The role of the Eastern RPAE will be to provide leadership to promote a **regional** and more **collaborative** approach among member school boards to the provision of Ministry of Education adult education programs and services, that:

- Fosters a shared responsibility for adult learning.
- Improves accountability for learner outcomes.
- Identifies and addresses gaps and opportunities.
- Ensures availability of a wide range of accessible program delivery options and supports that address the needs of adult learners.

2016-17 Project Objective

2016-17 RPAE Funds are being made available by the Province to support the following activities:

- Establish a collaborative network of school boards within the region that acts to coordinate its member activities that are related to the Ministry of Education Adult Education Strategy.
- Conduct a regional environmental scan that identifies opportunities for innovation and collaboration, as well as programming and service gaps, in the delivery of Ministry of Education adult education programs and services.
- Develop a multi-year regional strategic plan based on the outcomes of the regional environmental scan, to direct activities in subsequent years that will promote progress in the four key areas in scope, with key milestones and provision for ongoing evaluation and monitoring.