

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 12-70

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Acting Director
Department of Career Services

Date: December 20, 2012

Subject: **National Reporting System for Adult Education Determined Suitable**

Purpose: To provide notification to Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of the annual announcement of tests, test forms, and delivery formats that the Secretary determines to be suitable for use in the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) supported by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education.

Background: On January 14, 2008, on behalf of the Department of Education (DOE) the Federal Register published final regulations for 34 CFR part 462, Measuring Educational Gain in the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS regulations) (73 FR 2306). The NRS regulations established the process the Secretary uses to determine the suitability of tests for use in the NRS. DOE annually publishes in the Federal Register and posts on the Internet at <http://www.nrsweb.org> a list of the names of tests and the educational functioning levels the tests suitable to measure in the NRS regulations.

The secretary determined tests and test forms to be suitable for a period of either seven or three years from the date of the February 2, 2010 notice. A seven-year approval required no additional action on the part of the publisher, unless the information the publisher submitted as a basis for the Secretary's review was inaccurate or unless the test is substantially revised. A three-year approval was

issued with a set of conditions that must be met by the completion of the three-year period of time for which the test may continue to be used in the NRS.

In the most recent Register Notice, dated Monday, August 6, 2012, the Secretary publishes the same list of forms and computer delivery formats for the tests published in the September 12, 2011 notice. If a particular test form or computer delivery format is not explicitly specified for a test in this notice, it is not approved for use in the NRS.

Expiring Tests - The Secretary will allow States a period to sunset an expiring test and transition to other tests suitable for use in the NRS. States may use the transition period to select new tests, purchase appropriate inventories of assessment materials, and provide training to staff. Specifically, tests with three-year NRS approvals expiring on February 2, 2013, may continue to be used during a transition period ending on June 30, 2014.

Revocation of Tests – The Secretary may revoke the determination that a test is suitable (see 34 CFR 462.12(e)). If the Secretary revokes the determination of suitability, the Secretary announces through the Federal Register and posts on the Internet at www.nrsweb.org a notice of that revocation along with the date by which States and local eligible providers must stop using the revoked test.

Action

Required: Local areas shall assure that local practice is consistent with the content of this issuance.

Effective: Immediately

Inquiries: Any questions related to this issuance should be directed to Diane Hurley at dhurley@detma.org. Please include the issuance number with your inquiry.