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To: **EPE Funded Programs**

From: **Robert L. Purga, NYS Director of Adult Education**

Re: **Fast Track Programming**

In FY2018/2019, up to \$13 million of the \$83 million Employment Preparation Education (EPE) State Aid appropriation has been reserved to support a new initiative. Deputy Commissioner Kevin Smith has charged ACCES-AEPP with comprehensively raising HSE preparation results. A review of high school equivalency data revealed that the pass rate on the TASC math sub test was significantly below that of all other sub tests in New York. The four objectives of this new initiative are to:

1. Connect more walk-in examinees who were unsuccessful on the TASC test with HSE preparation programs
2. Build short-term, intense ("Fast Track") instructional opportunities for test takers or students who score between 400-500 on the TASC test or are unsuccessful on the TASC Readiness assessment
3. Significantly raise TASC math sub-test pass rates across the State, and
4. Significantly increase the effectiveness of HSE preparation throughout the State.

Up to \$13 million has been reserved to support this effort. National Reporting System (NRS) guidelines will not be applied to this portion of EPE funding and new performance metrics will be used to better assess the effectiveness of this initiative. These metrics will be included as part of NYSED's assessment policy that will be available online, but will include such changes as follows:

1. No NRS requirement that students must attend 12 hours before they count;
2. No valid pre or post-test requirement;
3. No Educational Gain calculated;
4. No TABE testing requirement. All participants must be tested with the TASC readiness assessment forms 6 and 7. Students who score between 400 and 500 should be recorded in ASISTS as FAST Track students with subtest scores entered;
5. No requirement for diploma recipients to be from NRS Levels 5 or 6. Students may be served at lower levels than required by NRS;
6. No employment follow-up for students/test takers; and
7. No requirement for HSE diploma recipients to have employment or postsecondary training

Development release of new GRASP math curricula focused on those TASC Test items that are well represented in the test and relatively easy to remediate.

The math HSE curriculum specialist at NYSED has identified eight (8) distinct areas on the TASC math subtest where students/test takers are struggling. These areas are well represented on the TASC test and relatively easy to remediate in Fast Track approaches. This year NYSED has invested funding as part of the overall NYSED/CUNY Master Teacher training to create these eight (8) math modules and then provide targeted Master Teacher training. These modules may be utilized in traditional classroom settings or in a specific Fast Track GRASP Math distance learning model utilizing especially designed packets. The Fast Track GRASP

math modules will be available in paper or electronic. These eight (8) math modules will be available for this initiative after July 1, 2018.

To further incentivize the adoption and use of the modules, when each one of these Fast Track GRASP Math packets is completed, programs will claim 18 contact hours (a “3” will be recorded in ASISTS for the distance learning formula). This represents a 50 percent increase over current distance learning programs approved by NYSED. These packets will also offer an additional Content Language skill development section. Should the student utilize this section, the program may record a “4” in place of the “3” in ASISTS for the distance learning formula. Students will also be allowed to attend in-person tutoring in traditional settings for up to 6 hours per week; this is double the number of contact hours generated by the other NYSED GRASP Distance Education program. Another major difference is the ability for students in the Fast Track Math GRASP to be concurrently co-enrolled in traditional instruction. The following list outlines the 8 Fast Track GRASP packets:

- Density (Population & Density)
- Transformations: Shapes on a
- Evaluating Algebraic Expressions & Solving Simple Equations
- Interpreting Graphs & Functions
- Basics of Functions
- Exponents & Roots
- Geometric Attributes & the Pythagorean Theorem
- Statistics & Probability

The students recruited to participate in this initiative will be coded and tracked separately in ASISTS. Any program providing Fast Track programming, as approved on their EPE Funding approval letter, must review the recorded tutorial that can be found at the following link (recommend to copy and paste into your browser). The tutorial is approximately 20 minutes long.

<https://cstraen.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/cstraen/recording/playback/27338002b46a423e8e2097c0a6db021c>

It is strongly recommended that all EPE funded programs intending to implement Fast Track programming must view the tutorial along with their data management staff. Programs must indicate to their respective RAEN director, the type(s) of Fast Track programming they are supporting for students.

Cc: ACCES-Adult Education Regional Staff
RAEN Directors
Rosemary Matt