

Education Technology Task Force

Recommendations for a Technology Plan

In 1998, the Arizona Department of Education, Division of Adult Education published the **Arizona Five Year State Plan** to serve as a “living document” for the improvement of Adult Education in Arizona. Goal 4 of that Plan called for maximizing “the effective use of technology at all levels of Adult Education”. Based on that goal, the State Director of Adult Education appointed the Education Technology Task Force:

To develop recommendations for a Technology Plan that can be implemented over the next three years and that contains an overall vision and goal for technology use and establishes statewide objectives predicated on availability of funding.

This document includes excerpts from the Education Technology Task Force Final Report Year 1 and contains recommendations to the Arizona Department of Education for implementation of a technology planning process. The full report is available upon request.

PARTICIPANTS

The Arizona Department of Education, Division of Adult Education appointed a Task Force of representatives of Adult Education and technology to research technology issues and to develop recommendations for the Department to consider in advancing the use of technology throughout the state.

The members of the Task Force represent the following agencies:

- Cochise College Adult Education
- Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County
- Northland Pioneer College Adult Education
- Pima College Adult Education
- Rio Salado College Adult Education
- Yuma Reading Council
- Literacyworks (Western/Pacific Literacy Network)
- Arizona Department of Education

VISION FOR TECHNOLOGY FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED ADULT EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

The Technology Vision for Adult Education programs in Arizona is:

Technology Vision

Extraordinary Adult Education provides opportunities for anytime, anywhere lifelong learning through state-of-the-art technology-assisted instruction, which keeps our work force globally competitive and enhances community, family, and personal growth

This Technology Vision mirrors and builds on the Vision for Adult Education as identified in the Department of Education's Five Year Plan for Adult Education:

Adult Education Vision

Access to Extraordinary Education

The Technology Vision is based on values for the adult learning experience that can be measured by clear evidence as the Technology Plan is developed and implemented. The values for technology in Adult Education address the lifelong learning needs of adults, professional development needs for instructors, and accountability and technology support for administration. For a value to have meaning, the Task Force believes that it should be able to be operationalized. Operationalizing the value will allow the Adult Education community to measure its successes and clearly identify areas for improvement. Each value statement below, therefore, has a corollary statement that is a marker for success for programs and the state. Progress in achieving these "markers for success", while not mandatory, serves as the roadmap to quality technology in education. The Task Force believes that technology is critical to the success of students and the Adult Education programs; however, the implementation of technology requires that resources be available to support the effort.

The Education Technology Task Force values

1. Interpersonal interaction as essential to the delivery of quality Adult Education

As evidenced by – The continuing role of teachers interacting with students and students interacting with each other, supported by technology rather than replaced by it.

2. An individualized approach to learning

As evidenced by -- Instruction that is delivered in a context that is relevant to the student (family, community, workplace) and takes into account their learning preferences.

3. The lifelong learning aspects of technology

As evidenced by – The ability of technology to promote and enhance opportunities for lifelong learning for the adult.

4. High quality content

As evidenced by -- High quality Adult Education programs using state-of-the-art technology and Arizona Adult Education Technology Standards to engage the learner and support the learner in reaching his or her goals.

5. Equal access

As evidenced by -- Every student and every instructor having access to available technology such as the internet and communications technology.

6. Personal growth

As evidenced by -- Adult Education programs which offer opportunities for personal growth for students.

7. The ability and capacity of all people to learn

As evidenced by -- All students have the capacity to learn – assistive technology offers additional options to structure the learning environment in the manner that best accommodates the needs of each student.

8. Multiple approaches to delivery

As evidenced by – The use of many different types of technology, including but not limited to computers, to enhance the opportunities for individuals to learn in the way that best meets their learning styles.

9. Our students

As evidenced by – The ability of our students to overcome obstacles and excel in education, be recognized as contributors to their community, and to the work force.

10. Confidentiality and integrity of systems

As evidenced by -- Use of technology in Adult Education in a way that assures confidentiality to the instructors and students and maintains the highest level of integrity possible.

11. Instructors, aides and tutors

As evidenced by – Support for professional development for Adult Education instructors, aides, and tutors.

12. Nature of change

As evidenced by – The fact that Adult Education embraces the environment of change as an opportunity to grow, learn and offer even more to Adult Education students.

13. Collaboration among Adult Education providers

As evidenced by – The creation of consortiums to share resources, including, but not limited to, curriculum, funding, technology development and technology support.

GOALS FOR TECHNOLOGY IN ADULT EDUCATION

The goals for technology in Adult Education developed by the Task Force are:

GOAL I: Adult learners will have equal access to and opportunity for technology related skill development.

GOAL II: Adult Education instructors will be competent, trained in, and have access to state-of-the-art technology to enhance their professional development and instructional abilities.

GOAL III: A technology consortium, whose membership includes providers, the Arizona Department of Education, and representatives of the private sector, will collaborate to enhance the ability of state-supported adult education programs to provide state-of-the-art instruction to adult learners.

Priority Areas:

The Task Force has also developed detailed objectives to operationalize these goals and an action guideline for implementation.

1. Produce three levels of developmental guidelines for a concept technology program. Developmental guidelines should include program, content and performance and hardware/software/connectivity guidelines.
2. Using the guidelines, develop a concept for Adult Education programs to use in their own development.
3. Develop standards for teacher training and hiring related to technology.
4. Complete an inventory of technology in Arizona Adult Education Programs by the Arizona Department of Education.
5. Develop a Technology Consortium to support information sharing and resource development for improved technology for Adult Education in Arizona.

STATEWIDE OBJECTIVES

A. Technology: The Approach for Student Instruction

Objective 1: Students should have access to educational technology to assist in instruction.

Objective 2: Technology instruction should be student-centered, user friendly, and supported by human interaction.

Objective 3: Adult Education programs should provide innovative, multi-task learning opportunities to meet unique learning needs.

Objective 4: Adult Education students should achieve a level of technology competence, as evidenced by the Arizona Adult Education Technology Standards, to acquire knowledge themselves for both educational and personal growth.

Objective 5: Adult Education Programs should have access to a centralized clearinghouse of technology that provides software and information about educational resources, including curriculum.

B. Technology: The Approach for Professional Development to Improve Classroom Activities

Objective 1: Provide funding for opportunities for adult education personnel to receive training in the use of technology-based instruction. This can include both centralized, state-supported, sponsored training through institutes and conferences and funding to individual programs to provide such support for their instructors.

Objective 2: Ensure that adult education personnel are versed in the uses and benefits of technology by establishing basic entry-level hiring standards related to technology for all Adult Education program instructors and ensuring that new teacher orientation includes information on technology.

Objective 3: Ensure full and part time instructors receive ongoing training that identifies individual needs, recognizes successful completion of training, provides opportunities for training, and supports ongoing learning.

Objective 4: Develop and support programs that implement technology best practices and accommodate urban and rural needs for technology.

C. Technology: The Approach for Administration of Adult Education Programs

Objective 1: Ensure the completion of a technology program inventory.

Objective 2: Provide email and internet access for all administration and program instructors.

Objective 3: Support the participation of a state technical advisory group which will guide planning, identify funding resources, assist with curriculum development and share information and resources. (Technology Consortium)

Objective 4: Ensure that Adult Education Program Directors plan and budget for technology development.

Objective 5: Develop technology support curriculum at both the state and program levels.

Objective 6: Complete a needs assessment and recommendations on assistive technology.