



OMB rates adult education programs "effective"

*By Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education,
mkmoen@doe.nv.gov, 775/687-9167*

On February 5, 2007, Troy R. Justesen, Assistant Secretary at the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, United States Department of Education, announced that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had rated the national Adult Education State Grant Program "effective"—the highest rating a federal program can achieve. Only two Education Department programs have earned this rating.

OMB used the PART (Program Assessment Rating Tool), which examines factors reflecting program performance, to re-evaluate the Adult Education State Grant Program. The program moved from its 2002 rating of "results not demonstrated" to "effective" in 2007 because performance measurements and outcomes were evident.

Congratulations to Nevada's adult educators for contributing to this outstanding outcome!

OMB noted the following:

- Recent evaluation findings and project performance data indicate the national program has positive effects and has achieved its performance goals for high school completion, postsecondary education or training, and job retention. The percentage of Adult Education students who obtained a GED or high school diploma increased by 55% from 2001 to 2006.
- The program recruits, retains, and assists more people from its target population at a lower cost than other job training programs. In 2004, the federal cost per high school diploma or GED attained by adults or out-of-school youth was \$3,081, compared to a ranged of \$12,000 to \$90,000 for other Federal job training programs.
- The program developed data quality standards, encouraged states to use common assessment tools, and improved the National Reporting System to collect comparable grantee performance data.

OMB uses the ratings to help develop funding levels for the President's budget, and Congress uses them in analyzing programs' return on investment for funding levels each year. Subsequent to the OMB rating, President Bush's FY 2008 budget proposed funding adult education state grants at the current level of \$564.1M.