REMINDER: July 15 is the deadline for budgets and invoices

July 15 is the deadline for two important finance-related items:
1) Programs’ FY17 budgets need to be input into the Finance Module.
2) It is the last day to invoice for FY16. As stated in your program contract, you should “submit the final year-end online invoice detailing actual cost incurred no later than July 15, 2016, unless notified otherwise in writing.”

For any questions related to these issues, contact Terry Pruitt at terrypruitt@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 247.

2016-17 KYAE Implementation Guidelines are now available on KAERS

It is that time of year again – the first of the year, when we provide guidelines for program implementation. Programs may access the 2016-17 KYAE Implementation Guidelines in KAERS by clicking on “State Resources” and then “More…” on the left hand side of the page.

This year the guidelines have changed rather substantially in light of the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) fiscal year of operations. Therefore, changes are not documented because we suggest reviewing the entire document. Additionally, Administrative Leadership does plan to review highlights of the guidelines at the face-to-face KAERS and policy review meetings in July and August.

If we find changes are necessary to sections of the implementation guidelines, we plan on modifying the section and posting that modification (instead of revising the entire document) alongside the originally released full document indicating what changes have taken place and on what page or pages.

If you have specific questions that you would like covered during KAERS and policy review meetings, please send them to Debbie McCoy at debbiem.mccoy@ky.gov, by the end of the day on July 20, 2016.
Amanda Isner-Cheek of Lyon County has been selected as the Fast Forward Kentucky Student of the Year for her remarkable persistence in pursuing her educational goals and for her success in using Fast Forward, KET’s GED® test-preparation curriculum.

On June 14, KET Adult Education staff participated in the GED® graduation ceremony at the Lyon County Adult Education center to recognize Isner-Cheek’s success. Due in large part to her studies with KET’s Fast Forward online test-preparation system, Isner-Cheek was able to pass each of the GED® test’s four sections – math, language arts, science and social studies – on the first try.

“Amanda had dropped out of school nearly 15 years ago and had managed to enjoy some successes in the working world” but eventually found that “employment was harder to find without a GED®,” said Natalie McPherson, the Lyon County Adult Education coordinator and instructor who nominated Isner-Cheek for the award.

KET recently selected Elliott County Adult Education as its Kentucky Learning Center of the Year for its outstanding use of Fast Forward, KET’s GED® test-preparation curriculum.

On June 8, KET Adult Education staff held a ceremony at the center to recognize its students and instructors’ consistent and successful use of Fast Forward. Several of the center’s students have received their GED® certification this year using Fast Forward as part of their studies.

“KET congratulates Amanda on her determination and success in achieving her GED® certification in order to secure a strong foundation for her chosen career,” said Shae Hopkins, KET’s executive director and CEO. “And we are thrilled that KET’s Fast Forward has been utilized so successfully in Elliott County to help learners there obtain a GED® credential as a critical first step in achieving their dreams.”

Representative Rocky Adkins (center) joined Danyelle Simmons and Tessa Love in celebrating Elliott County being named Kentucky Learning Center of the Year by KET.

Portions of this article originally appeared at blogs.ket.org/networking.
KYAE News to Use

July 2016

EMPower Plus Math Pilot to begin this summer

Twenty KYAE programs have been selected to participate in KYAE’s EMPower Plus Math Pilot, a collaboration with McGraw-Hill. Written by adult numeracy content experts, the EMPower math series is a unique curriculum designed specifically for returning adults functioning at NRS levels 4 and lower. Its goal is to build interest and competency in mathematical problem solving and communication, giving students a solid foundation for algebra. Over the coming year, math instructors in four cohorts will implement the Empower Plus lessons in sequence to test their effectiveness for student progress and persistence. Dr. Patricia Erwin of the Adult Education Academy at Morehead State University will lead the following programs in the pilot:

Boyd  Boyle  Carlisle  Carroll
Carter  Clay  Floyd  Franklin
Gallatin  Garrard  Hardin  Henderson
Jefferson  Johnson  Logan  Lyon
Madison  Martin  Meade  Oldham

The KYAE Lesson Bank will soon be moving from its current home with blogspot.com and Google drive to a new web-based location managed by Dr. Patricia Erwin of the Adult Education Academy, Morehead State University. Web developer Jeff Moser has been working closely with Dr. Erwin to build a user-friendly platform for finding, downloading and submitting math, RLA and employability lessons. During the summer, KYAE will work with Mr. Moser to transfer the existing lessons to the new platform.

In the meantime, the KYAE Curriculum Writing Teams have been busy adding units to the current bank. RLA instructors will definitely want to look at Mining for Truth with Point of View by Sarah Simpson and Elementary, My Dear Watson-Investigating Reading and Writing by Jackie Robertson. Math instructors have the following units available to them now: Polynomials by Erron Prickett and Volume and Surface Area by Ashley Gootee. Watch for three more math units and another RLA unit to be added in the near future.

So, for FREE curriculum, go to kyaelinears.blogspot.com (works best with Chrome or Firefox) to access these lessons. (User name: kyaeinstructors@gmail.com // Password: 2016KYAE // DO NOT CHANGE PASSWORD!) News to Use will keep you posted on progress toward the New KYAE Lesson Bank launch in the fall.

Instructor Verinda Rose opens the door to a brighter future on #GEDGradDay, a national event hosted by the GED Testing Service® on June 15. Every time #GEDGradDay was mentioned on social media outlets that day, GEDTS® donated $1 to the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL).

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All about the new NRS descriptors ...

Are you curious about the content the new TABE assessment will measure? OCTAE has recently released the new NRS descriptors to which all adult education assessments, such as TABE, must soon align. (Since the new descriptors are derived from the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), the 2014 GED® assessment is already aligned to them.) This document from OCTAE, Old versus New NRS Functional Levels, presents, by functioning levels, a comparison of the descriptors we’ve been using for years with the ones just released. The current descriptors are listed first in plain type followed by the new descriptors in bold print. At this time, KYAE has no further information as to when the new TABE will be adopted.
As you know, the WIN soft skills courseware and assessments are just one component of a comprehensive program of study that is available statewide. WIOA mandates that adult education programs provide academic instruction that is contextualized for the workplace.

Kentucky Adult Education was ahead of the game when we adopted the KYAE Employability Standards (E Standards) and required the integration of the E Standards in all instruction.

Intensive professional development was provided to support instructors in contextualizing instruction, and KYAE also developed the Employability Standards Implementation Guide with suggestions for integrating each of the 10 E Standards.

We heard from the field that instructors wanted a way to share how they were contextualizing instruction, which led to the development and launch of the KYAE Lesson Bank, an online repository where instructors can submit and view high-quality, standards-based lesson plans and units.

Next, we contracted with Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN) to provide online courseware and assessments for soft skills, career readiness (aligned with the WorkKeys assessments) and college readiness.

Students who complete all four modules of the soft skills courseware earn a Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate (KESC). KYAE again listened to the field, employers and agency partners, who asked for additional validation that each student also demonstrated the essential soft skills needed to get a job, keep a job and advance in the workplace.

At the start of the 2016-17 fiscal year (July 1, 2016), every KESC awarded by a KYAE program needs to also include the new Demonstration of Skills Document, to be signed by both the instructor and the student.

Adding this document provides verification that the awardee not only understands the skills, but also exhibits the behaviors that demonstrate a willingness to contribute in the workplace.

Your program should have received all of its student success items by now. (Please note that directors with multiple programs have received materials for all of their programs.) The items – and their recommended uses – are as follows:

- **FOLDERS**: These are updated versions of the folders you’ve received the past two years (featuring new, transitional logo). It is recommended that these be provided to students during their initial orientation session.

- **PLANNERS**: These are updated versions of the planners you’ve received the past two years (featuring new, transitional logo). It is recommended that these be provided to and used with students when they set up their class schedules.

- **PORTFOLIOS (see photo above)**: This new item is being provided to help students keep up with and have a professional way to present the certificates and credentials they earn. It is recommended that a portfolio is awarded with a student’s first certificate earned.

- **DRAWSTRING BACKPACKS**: A few programs requested this item, which is being provided to help students keep up with their “stuff” as they go back and forth from your center to home. It is recommended that backpacks be provided to students on their first day of actual class – after they have completed orientation and TABE testing.

Please provide feedback on which of these items are most useful, as KYAE will use this feedback to determine what items are ordered in the future. Please direct any comments or questions about these items to Missy Brownson at missy.brownson@ky.gov or (502) 573-5114, ext. 123.
Two counties ‘virtually’ double instruction opportunities

Adult education students in McLean and Ohio counties are able to hang out – and learn together – virtually through the use of Google Hangout classes.

McLean and Ohio counties share one full-time site manager, Susan Jollay, and each county has one dedicated instructor; a third instructor splits her time between the two counties.

Susan says, “We’ve learned to make wise use of technology by scheduling our regular classes through the year, as well as boot camp sessions, at the same time in both McLean and Ohio counties. Students connect via Google Hangout and join in, interact and participate in the class to receive the same instruction.”

Susan says that each student is required to have an Edmodo account. “Students are informed during orientation that this portal will provide them with not only another communication link with their instructor, but all of the (adult education program) info, class syllabi, lesson content, supplemental resources and links, and distance learning assignments,” she says. “Students also know they can receive help from home by connecting with us via Google Hangout.”

Why Wonderopolis? A glimpse at the free online resource

Wonderopolis, located at www.wonderopolis.org, is an award-winning free website from the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL). Featuring a learner-centric approach, Wonderopolis is a platform that activates the natural curiosity in all ages and demographics by using high-interest informational text and related content.

An intriguing question is posed each day and then explored in ways that both inform and encourage new questions through the Wonder of the Day®. Multi-disciplinary content is explored and can be used to enhance students’ critical thinking skills on topics that are of interest. As an added feature, visitors who leave comments on the site receive personalized responses from the Wonderopolis team.

In March, Wonderopolis launched the Wonder Ground, a new network that offers classroom resources and support for educators (http://wg.wonderopolis.org/). On June 13, Wonderopolis launched a new edition of its signature summer program, Camp Wonderopolis™ (http://camp.wonderopolis.org/), a fun and engaging learning experience guided by STEM topics and gamification approach. More than 300,000 campers have experienced Camp Wonderopolis since 2014, earning Wonder Cards through informational text and vocabulary quizzes on their own and in summer programs. Beyond the adult education classroom, Wonderopolis and Camp Wonderopolis would be especially appropriate for adult education students to use with their own children.

EDpuzzle.com – If you use videos in your classroom, check out EDpuzzle.com

There are many educational videos from YouTube, Khan Academy, Learn Zillion, Math Antics, etc., that you can personalize in the following ways:

- You can decide where the video starts and ends.
- You can add questions at any point in the video (short answer/multiple choice). (YES, you can see their responses!)
- You can add audio at any point in the video.
- You may add math symbols using the equations editor.

Please note:

- You can choose from an unedited video or one that another teacher has already done for you.
- It does not take long to edit a video.
- You create a class and send the link via email or edmodo to enter the class/watch the video
- This isn’t limited to math!

I use it as a quick review and formative assessment tool. When I notice the video presents a concept differently, I can make a comment or audio about how what I said and what the video said are really the same thing, just presented in a different way. This helps the students not to panic and see other views.

– Diane Kelley, Hardin County

KYAE News to Use 5 July 2016
Kentucky adult educators attend 2016 KCM Conference

Kentucky Adult Education was well-represented by math instructors, administrators and KYAE staff as more than 600 interested math educators descended on the Lexington Marriott Griffin Gate on March 7 and 8 for the Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM) 2016 Conference: Call to Action!

A diverse menu of sessions offered attendees new insights into teaching math conceptually, the use of technology with math instruction, the 8 Mathematical Practices, real-world and hands-on application, growth mindset and much more, as delivered by national and state presenters. “We are fortunate to have such expertise available so close to home,” says Gayle Box, KYAE senior associate.

Kentucky adult education attendees included: Catherine Beechie, Garrard Co.; Diane Kelley, Hardin Co.; Aileen Perkins, Madison Co.; Missy Slone, Lincoln Co.; Harlon Williams, Clay Co.; Erron Prickett, KYAE math coach; Lori Looney, Morehead State University; Gayle Box and Reecie Stagnolia, KYAE.

Curriculum Writing Teams initiative will strengthen KYAE Lesson Bank

KYAE is fortunate to have a pool of dedicated instructors who have submitted and had lessons accepted to the KYAE Lesson Bank. Seven of these instructors have been selected to serve on KYAE’s 2016 Spring Curriculum Writing Teams:

**RLA**
- Sheryl Markham, Logan Co.
- Ashley Gootee, Muhlenberg Co.
- Jackie Robertson, Hancock Co.
- Sarah Simpson, Martin Co.

**Math**
- Ashley Gootee, Muhlenberg Co.
- Diane Kelley, Hardin Co.
- Goldie McCalvin, Greenup Co.
- Donnie Osborn, Martin Co.

The goal of this new initiative is to expand existing lessons into units for the KYAE Lesson Bank. For the opportunity to apply to future writing teams, KYAE encourages you to submit your CCR-based lessons for review. Lesson templates and guides have been updated to reflect the key advances inherent in the College and Career Readiness Standards and are available at on the CCR SBI page of the KYAE website under CCR-Aligned Lessons and Assignments or from the homepage of the KYAE Lesson Bank.

Check It Out!

- **LearnZillion** – LearnZillion is the world’s first open, cloud-based curriculum. It was conceived from one principal’s desire to capture “powerful learning experiences so that teachers didn’t have to reinvent the wheel every time they taught a standard.” It has grown from an initial group of 20 contributing teachers from across the country to more than 1,000 in 2015. Set up a free account to access all levels of math and English/Language Arts lessons. Search by topic, standard, domain and level for units and videos.

- **YouCubed** – Sponsored by the Stanford Graduate School of Education and based on the work of Stanford math education professor Jo Boaler, the goal of youcubed.org is to ”inspire, educate and empower teachers of mathematics, transforming the latest research on math learning into accessible and practical forms.” New science on the brain and learning is revealing insights into mathematics learning, and though the intended audience is K-12 teachers and parents, the research, videos, ideas and tasks presented on youcubed will contribute to student engagement and achievement at any age. Create your free account to join the “math revolution” for today’s students.