



CASAS 2011-12 WIA Title II Promising Practices Awards

The Promising Practice Award recognizes California ABE, ASE or ESL adult education providers that have implemented strategies and practices to help students attain their goals. These practices must improve program accountability, develop skills needed in the workplace, promote collaboration and cooperation with other programs or agencies, promote the effective use of technology, promote effective student transitions, or have potential application in other adult programs. CASAS is managing this CDE award process, which is open to WIA Title II ABE, ESL/ELL, VESL, ASE, and GED programs in California. All award-winning agencies have performed at or above California State averages for all involved programs for the last two program years, or have shown marked improvement in all instructional levels.

Burbank Adult School: “College Bound” Transition Program

Category: Transitions

College Bound is a highly successful and effective college transition program for ASE students. Key components of this program include a dedicated counselor who meets individually with students and strong partnerships with local community colleges and workforce development centers.

Elk Grove USD (Jail Program): Points of Entry Transition Program

Category: Transitions

The Points of Entry Transition Program provides intensive transitional services for individuals being released back into society after incarceration. Individuals work with a transition specialist, identify goals and needs, are connected with social services, and gain valuable workplace soft skills instruction.

The English Center: Money Management Competition

Category: EL Civics and Citizenship

The “Beat the Banker” Money Management Competition successfully incorporates EL Civics lessons into all aspects of the classroom experience in a creative and interesting way. Students receive a classroom “paycheck” every other week, and are expected to manage it just as they would their personal budgets.

Fairfield Suisun Adult School: ABE/ESL Transition Class

Category: Transitions

The ABE/ESL Transition Course at Fairfield Suisun is designed for intermediate high and advanced ESL students and provides intensive instruction in public speaking, reading, vocabulary building, and composition. Students learn the skills they need to succeed in higher-level ABE courses, CTE programs, and in postsecondary education.

Fremont Adult School: VESL Computer Lab

Category: Curriculum/Instruction

The VESL Computer Lab Class provides Beginning to Advanced ESL students with a technology-based curriculum to build employability skills and improve English proficiency. Students are able to use technology in a meaningful way, by contributing to class Web pages, taking online surveys, and accessing Web-based practice materials on their own time.

Hayward Adult School: *Fast Track to Employment*

Category: Transitions

The Fast Track to Employment Transition Program provides comprehensive support and instruction, with the goal of preparing students at various levels for success in the workplace. Students practice workplace behaviors within the classroom environment, and receive contextualized instruction focused on employability skills.

Lompoc Unified Adult Education: *EL Civics Program Improvements*

Category: EL Civics and Citizenship

Lompoc created a rigorous ESL curriculum integrating Common Core Standards, and restructured the school's learning environment to provide clear, articulated and goal-oriented transitions from level to level. This program began in 2007-08, and has since proven to help improve student performance and learning gains, as well as provide a very structured pathway for students to achieve their goals.

Mt. Diablo Adult Education: *Project Access*

Category: Transitions

Project Access is a structured program that provides a clear pathway for intermediate-level ESL students to earn an Early Childhood Education certification, and subsequently a job at local childcare/educational institutions. This project involves collaboration with local community-based organizations and community colleges, as well as the contextualized instruction.

Mt. San Antonio Community College District: *"Give Me 20 (Minutes)" Reading Program*

Category: Action Research

In an effort to encourage ESL students to read during their free time and use the on-campus ESL library, Mt. San Antonio CCD started the Give Me 20 Minutes Reading Project, a six-week program in which students check out materials from the resource library, read them for 20 minutes per day, and write reports at the end of each book.

New Haven Adult School: *Professional Learning Communities*

Category: Curriculum/Instruction

The Professional Learning Communities at New Haven Adult School are based on a process of embedded staff development and continuous improvement focused on student results. Teachers and staff identify "essential learning", create common formative assessments, and identify and implement research-based instructional strategies to improve student learning.

South San Francisco Adult School: *CASAS Data Collection*

Category: Accountability

South San Francisco has created an effective and organized system for placement, testing, and targeting ESL student needs based on TOPSpro reports. This strategy includes a personal data conference between the data technician and each teacher to interpret and plan class interventions. Staff members discuss how to use reports when meeting with students, and come up with a specific plan on how to target instruction for each student.

Sweetwater UHSD Adult and Community Education: *ABE and ESL Pacing Guides*

Category: Curriculum/Instruction

Sweetwater Adult and Community Education created comprehensive ABE and ESL pacing guides in order to formalize instructional levels and make student progression uniform across the agency's many sites and classrooms. These pacing guides provide students and instructors with a consistent set of course materials and level indicators.