

**The New York Association of
Continuing/Community Education
(NYACCE)**

2010 – 2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

1. Amend existing policy to require all GED test candidates demonstrate readiness for the exam by passing the Official Practice Test

The GED pass rate in New York State has fluctuated between 50 – 60 % for several years. The state has consistently ranked near the bottom, with a pass rate only slightly higher than Alabama and Mississippi. In 2008, those two states improved their performance, leaving New York State with the nation's lowest pass rate of 59.9% compared to the national rate of 73%. This fact should be a cause for concern to educators and policymakers alike. NYACCE is advocating that all students registering for the exam must demonstrate sufficient readiness by passing the OPT with a minimum score of 2500.

2. Restore Adult Literacy Education Funding

In an increasingly competitive world economy, America's economic growth depends on the education and skills of its workers. The Council of Economic Advisers has released a report describing how the U.S. labor market is expected to grow and develop in the coming years. The CEA described a shift toward jobs that require workers with greater analytical and interactive skills. Today, faced with rapid technological change and global competition, President Barack Obama has asked every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training. Over 3,000,000 adults in New York State currently function at the Below Basic level of prose literacy according to the State Assessment of Adult Literacy. Adult learners at this level require more time and a greater investment of resources to build their foundation skills. Yet unless they are supported in the development of their reading, writing and English language skills, most of these adults will be unable to fully support their children's education, enter vocational training programs or find and keep jobs that will enable them to achieve self-sufficiency. NYACCE is requesting that Adult Literacy Education (ALE) funding be maintained at the proposed level of \$6.2 million dollars. The Governor's proposed cut of \$2 million dollars would affect over 9,000 adult learners throughout the state and would ultimately result in programs closing and services being denied to those most in need.