



National Coalition For Literacy

September 27, 2010

Brenda Dann-Messier
Assistant Secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education
Potomac Center Plaza
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Dann-Messier,

Thank you for your September 20th letter indicating your willingness to receive further comments from the National Coalition for Literacy. The OVAE recommendations shared during the NRS Congress (August 4-5) are the most recent version of OVAE recommendations we have seen, so we have attached our feedback on these recommendations. We hope it will be useful as OVAE refines its NRS proposal for further comment by the NRS Congress.

A consistent theme throughout the attached feedback is the concern about placing a burden on local providers, states, professional development and technical assistance systems without additional funds needed to implement these changes. While the attached feedback is specific to NRS changes outside of WIA reauthorization, we have two suggestions with respect to funding that may help to address these concerns.

- In the design of OVAE's spending plan for the \$7M NIFL funds, we ask that OVAE dedicate funding for implementing NRS changes.
- Once WIA reauthorization moves forward, it would be helpful if OVAE would create a separate line item for implementing NRS reform. We believe that more profound changes are needed and a separate line item would provide the support needed for implementation.

We would also like to reiterate how important we believe it will be for OVAE to create an advisory panel from the field to shape NRS reform, now, and once WIA reauthorization moves forward.

Also, last week NCL held its annual elections for the Board of Directors and Executive Board. Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, American Institutes for Research, is the 2010-2011 NCL President and John Segota, TESOL, is the NCL Vice President. Jackie Taylor is now Public Policy Committee Chair. They will be communicating on behalf of NCL with respect to public policy from this point forward.

Thank you for your consideration on the attached. We will be in touch with Tarik Barrett to schedule a time to meet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter A. Waite".

Peter Waite
NCL Past President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Silver-Pacuilla".

Heidi Silver-Pacuilla
NCL President