



Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework Initiative

SDAG presentation

October 21, 2011



OALCF Initiative Background

- The Ontario Liberal Plan, *Moving Forward Together* – November 2007, promised:
 - “A Smarter Ontario: Ontario will work with the college sector and non-profit groups to design and deliver an adult literacy curriculum.”
- The Literacy and Basic Skills and Academic Upgrading (LBS/AU) service provider network has identified:
 - A need for clearer learner pathways to and from LBS/AU;
 - Greater service coordination within Employment Ontario;
 - A need for a common language of assessment.
- The auditor has asked for clearer measures of learner progress.



OALCF Improvements: pathways

| OLD | NEW |
|--|---|
| <p>Learners had one of three Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Employment■ Further education and training■ Independence | <p>Learners follow one of five Goal Paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Employment■ Apprenticeship■ Secondary School Credit■ Postsecondary Education■ Independence |



OALCF Improvements: pathways

| OLD | NEW |
|---|---|
| <p>Learner goal definitions may be inconsistent; goal requirements may vary between service providers and communities</p> | <p>Goal Path Descriptions clearly describe the expectations of the five goals: employment, apprenticeship, secondary school credit, postsecondary education and independence. The information helps service providers to help learners set realistic, feasible and achievable goals. The information informs goal-directed program development.</p> |



OALCF Improvements: service coordination

| OLD | NEW |
|---|--|
| <p>LBS service provision was primarily focussed on an integrated and coordinated system of LBS funded agencies in each community.</p> | <p>OALCF is a transition oriented model and provides LBS service providers with the tools and guidance to integrate and coordinate LBS services within a learner's broader network of EO and other related services. SPs will now also identify non LBS related wraparound services that will increase learner persistence and motivation.</p> |



OALCF Improvements: assessment

| OLD | NEW |
|--|--|
| <p data-bbox="210 609 1008 787">LBS service providers use a wide range of formal and informal assessment tools.</p> <p data-bbox="210 885 1008 1315">The language of LBS Learning outcomes and LBS Levels were not well understood by external stakeholders (employers, employment services, Ontario Works) negatively impacting upon effective referrals.</p> | <p data-bbox="1071 609 1879 852">OALCF provides service providers with clear guidance on purpose, implementation and interpretation and use of assessment results.</p> <p data-bbox="1071 950 1879 1315">Using the language of tasks will help external stakeholders to understand what learners will be able to do as a result of the LBS program intervention, helping to inform referral decisions.</p> |



OALCF Improvements: measuring learner progress

| OLD | NEW |
|--|--|
| <p>No mechanism to report on learner progress within program, prior to exit.</p> <p>Learning outcomes and LBS levels had minimal comparability beyond Ontario.</p> | <p>Progress toward goal completion and learner skill gain will both be measured and reported to TCU.</p> <p>Using the complexity scales of Essential Skills allows for comparability across jurisdictions.</p> |



OALCF Development Approach

The OALC Framework was developed in collaboration with 8 LBS stream, sector and technology support organizations:

- ❑ To meet the commitment made in the platform promise to work with the service provider network;
- ❑ To use the expertise of and to gain buy-in and champions from the service provider network;
- ❑ To ensure the Curriculum Framework will fit the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of our clients.

The OALCF was launched in April 2011 and will be updated with additional tools on October 29, 2011.



OALC Framework Development

Partners:

- AlphaPlus Centre - IT elements, web posting
- Association of Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA)- goal completion
- College Sector Committee of ACAATO - curriculum
- Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) - training
- Deaf Literacy Initiative (DLI) - specific tools
- La Coalition Ontarienne de formation des adults (COFA) - learner gain
- Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) - Communication
- Ontario Native Literacy Coalition (ONLC) - selection and use of existing learning materials



OALCF eopg.ca website update

New tools to be posted on October 28, 2011

- Learner Plan template and instructions
- Goal Path Descriptions for 5 goal paths
- Supporting Learners through service coordination and referrals
- Glossary revision



Other Key OALCF Activities and Supports (not posted on eopg)

- Support Orgs provide SPs with organizational capacity support
- ETC OALCF training – fall 2011
- Service Provider Fall OALCF training by sector and stream – Fall 2011
- On-line feedback surveys Dec 2011 and Feb 2012 through Alpha Plus on how well OALCF tools and resources help SPs use the OALCF



Other Key OALCF Activities and Supports cont'd

- Stream specific competency-based learner resources – Centre For a Ningwakwe
- Volunteer tutor training and modules – Laubach Literacy Ontario
- ASL translation of key OALCF documents
- French and English webinar on assessment



Other Key OALCF Activities and Supports cont'd

- Development of 60 milestones in English and 60 milestones in French with administration and scoring guidelines
- Milestone Selection Guide
- 6 Culminating Tasks (one per goal path and 2 for apprenticeship, including skills training)
- MTCU to control distribution and revision of milestones and culminating tasks



Other Key OALCF Activities and Supports cont'd

- In fall 2011, Bow Valley College will pilot TOWES Focus/Niveau in Ontario.
- COFA will provide a coordinating service to BVC to ensure that streams, sectors and regions are included in the pilot.
- The ministry will consider the tool for the effectiveness measure of Learner Gain.
- Training of SPs to use EOIS CaMS.



OALCF Summary

Goal: To develop an Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework that improves the transitions of adults through Employment Ontario and the broader education and training system.

The Framework will:

- standardize learning for clients across the Literacy and Basic Skills/Academic Upgrading (LBS/AU) delivery system;
- make LBS/AU services and client outcomes more transparent for referring EO partners by emphasizing the performance of tasks needed for the learner's goal.