

Ministry of Advanced Education
and Skills Development

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Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et
de la Formation professionnelle

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Dear Employment Ontario partners:

In January 2016, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) launched the Learner Gains Research Project (LGRP) to test the Essential Skills for Employment and Education (ESEE) tool for use as a measure of learner progress in the Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program. The tool was tested in 45 LBS sites and across a range of LBS learners.

The project was administered by the College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading (CSC) in two phases. Phase 1 included the administration of the ESEE tool to conduct intake assessments on a group of learners. This phase ended on June 30, 2016. Phase 2 involved the administration of the same assessment tool, to the same group following their completion of the program. This phase ended on November 30, 2016. In total over 2,800 registrants were provided with the assessment.

With the conclusion of the project, the ministry has received two reports from the CSC: the final report on project findings and an independent evaluator's summary of a survey of participating service providers. These reports are now posted to the [Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway](#), along with a questions and answers document, to provide more information.

Next Steps

Based on the findings of the reports, the ministry will not further implement the ESEE tool for measuring learner gains at this time.

The ministry remains committed to evidence-based decision-making and will refer to the findings from this project as we continue to explore best practices for learner assessment in other jurisdictions and consider options to assess LBS learner skill gains in Ontario. The findings from the project will also be included for consideration as part of the work of the LBS Improvement and Expansion Working Tables and Reference Groups.

We would like to thank the CSC for providing access to the ESEE tool, overall administration of the pilot project, including online and telephone support to participating service providers, and for the report on outcomes of the pilot. We would also like to thank the service providers and learners who participated in the project. Finally, we would like to thank the broader LBS network for your continued collaboration and support throughout this project.

If you have any questions, please contact your local MAESD office.

Original Signed by

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