Adult Education Block Grant Technology Opportunity Assessment

Project Overview

The AEBG Office has commissioned an independent review of the software tools and information management systems currently being used across AEBG providers. The goal of the review is to understand the current landscape of tools being used across providers, along with pain points and opportunity areas that practitioners are experiencing with these tools and associated processes.

The Technology Opportunity Assessment will enable the AEBG Office to more strategically support providers with the purchase and use of technology tools. The AEBG Office is partnering with The Ada Center, an organization that conducts national research on effective technology use in higher education and specializes in education technology assessments. WestEd will be coordinating with The Ada Center to manage the project.

Methodology and Timeline

The design of the Technology Opportunity Assessment is structured to solicit actionable feedback and perspectives from AEBG practitioners and supporting partners. Across May-August 2018, The Ada Center will be conducting research conversations with a representative sample of provider and consortia staff, vendor representatives, and subject matter experts associated with AEBG. At a high-level, the Ada Center will be exploring software tools and processes that support activities such as enrollment, reporting, digital learning, career exploration, employer and partner relationship management, strategic planning, and learner support, probing on what's working well for providers along with potential challenge areas. This research phase will also include a handful of process and technology mapping sessions with AEBG providers.

Building from the results of these interviews, The Ada Center and WestEd will create a taxonomy of tools used by AEBG providers. In September 2018, that taxonomy will help guide a survey conducted with the broader AEBG landscape.

In October 2018, the results from the survey, expert interviews, process and technology mapping sessions, and practitioner conversations will be synthesized in a 15-20 page report for the AEBG Office.

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