



# U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education

## Fact Sheet Series

### Adult Basic and Literacy Education



## America's Competitiveness through Adult Math Instruction

### Background

Mathematical skills are a gatekeeper for entrance into post-secondary education and training programs for adults of all ages, and significantly affect employability and career options. Recognizing the importance of math education, President George W. Bush signed an Executive Order in June of 2006, establishing the National Math Panel (the Panel), an important part of the American Competitiveness Initiative. The Panel will publish its synthesis of research on K-12 mathematical education in February 2008.

### Overview

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), in collaboration with MPR Associates, Inc. (the primary contractor); Rutgers University's Center for Mathematics, Science, and Computer Educations; the University of Tennessee Center for Literacy Studies; and, Technical Education Research Centers (TERC); established an Adult Numeracy Panel (ANP) to analyze the findings and recommendations of the National Math Panel (NMP) report. The work of the ANP will result in a publication summarizing the evidence-based principles of adult numeracy instruction.

Project collaborators will apply these principles to enhance the Teachers Investigating Adult Numeracy (TIAN) professional development model. The newly enhanced TAIN professional development model will then be field-tested

The OVAE Fact Sheet Series highlights efforts currently underway at the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) to support the principles of the President's *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The principle(s) supported by this effort are checked.

- Increase Accountability and Academic Achievement
- Increase Options and Involvement for Parents and Students
- Increase Flexibility and Reduce Bureaucracy
- Focus on What Works

in two States. Based upon the field-test results, OVAE will be provided with recommendations for making the TIAN professional development model available to all States.

### Outcomes and Products

- A publication, based on the work of the National Math Panel, which summarizes the principles of adult numeracy instruction.
- An evidence-based professional development model for adult numeracy educators.

### Timeline

- FY 2007 - FY 2010

### Contact

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