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Michigan Adult Education Reporting System (MAERS)

What is MAERS?

MAERS is a web-based system for reporting on each of the over 80,000 adult education students in Michigan. MAERS meets the National Reporting System (NRS) requirements developed by the U.S. Department of Education to address the mandates of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Title II: Adult Education and Family Literacy. The outcome information addresses the increasing demand for data-driven program planning and accountability. All state- and federal-funded adult education programs in Michigan are required to provide data to MAERS.

MAERS is an automated information system that produces reports for the NRS, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), and local program providers. In addition, MAERS data is reported to the Michigan Education Information System, Single Record Student Database. MAERS data provides information to state and local adult education programs to aid in planning and continuously improving the learning and goal attainment rates for all students. MAERS is part of the Michigan Works! One-Stop MIS participant database and reporting system. It is anticipated that this linkage will support coordination of a broad range of adult services.

What does MAERS do?

MAERS collects student data in the following broad categories:

- **Descriptive** – student characteristics (age/sex, reason for attending, and student status-employed, rural resident, disability, etc.).
- **Participation** – enrollment by program type (Adult Basic Education, GED, High School Diploma, English as a Second Language, Workplace Literacy, or Family Literacy).
- **Outcomes** – measures of performance (educational gains and goal achievement).

Educational Gains

This measurement applies to *all* learners. Pretest assessments place each student at an “Educational Functioning Level” (EFL) on a six-tier skill scale at the start of an instructional period. Posttest assessments indicate advancement on this scale. Three standardized tests (CASAS, TABE 9-10, and WorkKeys) are approved assessments and must be matched to the student’s instructional program and outcome goals. Periods of instruction are locally defined to meet the needs of adult education students.

Goal-Related Measures

Each student identifies the goals they want to accomplish while receiving adult education instruction. An individual adult learning plan is developed for every student, indicating the steps needed to achieve their goals. The NRS defines priority goals as those relating to employment, obtaining a high school diploma or GED certificate, or enrollment in postsecondary education/training.

How to find more information on MAERS?

For more information about MAERS, contact the DLEG Office of Adult Education at (517) 335-0386 or visit www.michigan.gov/adulteducation.