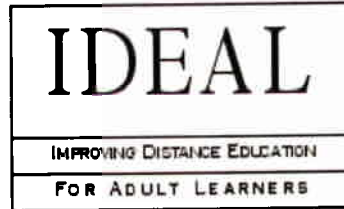


## Distance Learning in Ohio

Kimberly S. McCoy



The Ohio Literacy Resource Center (OLRC), in collaboration with the Ohio Literacy Network (OLN) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) office is establishing, developing, and implementing a distance-learning environment for the state as part of a 13-state consortium titled Project Ideal. *Project Ideal, A Distance Learning Pilot Project* is a funding opportunity for pilot sites to develop and expand services beyond the classroom through distance education using GED Connection online instruction, videos, and workbooks. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Literacy Link, the Kentucky Education Network (KET), and the National Center for Literacy (NCAL) produced the GED Connection curriculum. The GED Connection curriculum includes 39 half-hour video programs, 3 full-color GED Connection workbooks, free Web-based GED Connection learning activities, Teacher's Guide, and an online management system. All ABLE programs with a funded GED component received at least one set of the GED Connection video series in the fall of 2001. The OLRC will administer the pilot project, and the Distance Learning Coordinator will provide training and technical assistance to the pilot sites. ODE will award the selected pilot sites \$19,500.00 to participate.

The Distance Learning Pilot Project provides learning opportunities to adults who lack basic educational skills equal to those of a high school graduate. The purpose of the Distance Learning Pilot Project is to explore ways to enable adult learners who cannot enroll in and/or participate in the traditional classroom-based instruction because of barriers such as distance, conflicting family or work schedules and/or waiting lists. The purposes of the distance-learning classrooms are to provide basic educational services to a segment of the population, currently in need but not being reached and to expand services already in practice. The request for proposals (RFPs) were mailed out to all ODE-funded ABLE programs the week of September 23, 2002.

*The following programs were selected to participate in the first phase of the pilot project:*

- Adult Career Educational Services
- Canton City Schools ABLE
- Cuyahoga Community College/Eastern
- Franklinton Learning Center
- Hamilton City Schools ABLE
- Ohio Hi-Point ABLE
- Six District Educational Compact ABLE/Kent

Teachers and administrators from the selected sites will attend a face-to-face three-day training in November 2002, at Kent State University and participate in a four- to six-week online distance-learning course authored by Project Ideal staff. In addition, selected sites are required to partake in a six-month instructional phase, attend The Ohio Association Adult and Continuing Education annual Conference (OAACE) in April 2003, and a one-day wrap-up session in June 2003. The six-month instructional phase is scheduled from January-June 2003. Pilot sites will collect information and complete documentations and questionnaires compiled by the OLRC and Project Ideal team.

OLRC, OLN, and ODE would like to congratulate those who were selected and thank all who applied. The pilot project is scheduled to last three years. Additional sites may be added in the next two years, contingent upon available funds. Information will be made available on the Project Ideal Website located at <http://literacy.kent.edu/ideal> when the request for proposal process opens. Feel free to contact Kimberly S. McCoy, Project Ideal Coordinator, via email at [kmccoy@literacy.kent.edu](mailto:kmccoy@literacy.kent.edu) or phone at (800) 765.2897 ext. 20757 if you would like to obtain more information about the pilot project.

# Ohio Literacy Resource Center

Enhancing Adult Literacy in Ohio

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