



Business Access Community Update

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ACF- TANF says “We Will Count Distance Learning...”

Big news about distance learning can be found on page 11 of the recently-published ACF Reauthorization of the TANF Program Final Rule. Addressing concerns about whether or not time spent in a distance-learning program could count towards work participation rates the response stated, “*We will count time spent in distance learning to the extent that such programs otherwise meet the work activity definitions and include supervision.*” Another comment added that, “*supervision need not involve in-person contact, but can be by telephone or electronic contact where those methods are suitable.*” The document makes clear that individual states will need to explain how they will monitor hours of participation in distance-learning activities in their Work Verification Plan. Business Access participation has been used in the following TANF work activities:

- Job skills training directly related to employment
- Education directly related to employment

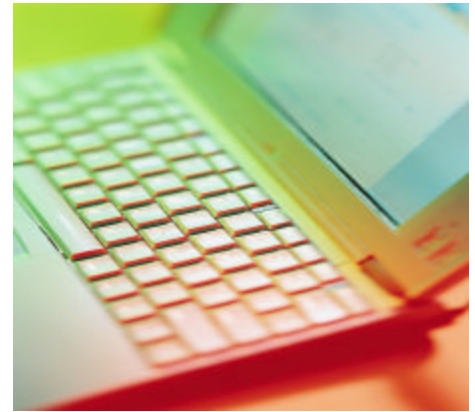
Supervising and tracking participation has always been a fundamental aspect of the Business Access In-Home Learning System. We track Achiever online activities literally by the second, monitor their coursework progress, and make personal contact whenever participation or progress falls below identified thresholds. Some argue that distance learning is more personally-engaging and more closely-scrutinized than learning that takes place in a traditional classroom setting.

Technology Based Learning Paper

Social Policy Research (SPR) Associates recently published an interesting and comprehensive review of Technology-Based Learning and Distance Learning for the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The paper makes reference to several Business Access programs...Read: Technology-Based Learning Strategies

“The Kids are Alright”

Business Access CEO Kimberly Bunting presented ‘The Kids are Alright’ to a standing-room-only crowd at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) convention in Washington D.C. on Monday, February 25th. Her presentation focused on describing the personal characteristics that the gamer generation is bringing to the workplace...View the presentation here.



17101 Preston Road, Suite 260
Dallas, Texas 75248

dbeamon@business-access.com

214-556-5380

www.business-access.com

How People Change

It is never easy to give up bad habits. Below are the six steps identified in the well-researched and increasingly-popular book, **Changing for Good** by James O. Prochaska, John Norcross, and Carlo DiClemente:

- Pre-contemplation (denial)
- Contemplation
- Preparation
- Action
- Maintenance
- Termination

Job Growth High in Texas

McAllen, Texas is expected to have the highest job-growth rate of any U.S. city in 2008. Texas cities routinely generate more jobs than the national average. Read more here.

Fail Early and Often to Succeed Sooner

A concept many digital natives embrace, at least with regard to their use of technology, is "fail early and often in order to succeed sooner." They cut their technological teeth by tossing aside the directions and figuring out how to get their cell phone, iPod, or video game to work by trial and error.

It may not be the most efficient way to learn, but it's *engaging*. Educator Paul Gee suggests that engagement and, in particular, applying knowledge and skills to actual tasks is an important part of the cycle of developing mastery in any field. At a fundamental level, it's the difference between learning by being told and discovering what to do. For more about this learning concept, go [here](#).

Achiever Words and Notes

"I have been at my current job for about seven months. I obtained this position through a local temp agency and it has worked out. I love the flexibility at this job and I love the work! Leasing properties is a fun job and it allows me to use all my Business Access skills. Recently, I had to do a PowerPoint presentation. Before Business Access, I had no idea what that was! In two short months, BA has provided me with a skill I can use at work!"

Tamara, New Jersey Achiever

Angela found homeschooling resources at her local library but wasn't going to be able to take her daughter to the library every day to access the teaching materials. Fortunately, the information was available online, making it possible for Angela to use her BA laptop to begin her daughter's homeschooling program.

Angela, Chicago Achiever

Vanessa, a Lower Rio youth in our GED program, has made significant progress since entering the program by completing 124 of 134 courses assigned. Congratulations for an excellent effort!

Vanessa, Lower Rio Achiever

"Thanks to my computer training, I am also able to talk online with my sister in South America and save on long-distance phone bills! We both have web cameras and microphones, so it's just like being together!"

Sandra, Jefferson Parish Achiever

How People Learn

70% of learning & development takes place from real-life and on-the-job experiences, tasks, and problem solving.

20% of learning comes from feedback and from observing and working with role models.

10% of learning and development comes from formal training.

Source: Princeton University [Learning and Development Website](#)

Self-Sufficiency Wage

Using standards developed by the Family Economic Self Sufficiency Project at the University of Washington, a 2005 report produced for the State of New Jersey determined that a single parent in a New Jersey metropolitan area, with a preschool child and a school-age child (family of three), needed to earn \$19.95 an hour in order to adequately meet his or her family's needs. Read more about economic self-sufficiency [here](#).

Learn more about how Business Access has helped Workforce:

[TANF Clients](#)

[WIA Adults](#)

[WIA Youth](#)

[Hurricane Evacuees](#)

[Incumbent Workers](#)

[FSE&T Clients](#)

[Dislocated Workers](#)

[Trade Affected Workers](#)

[People with Disabilities](#)

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Telephone: 1.800.244.7981 | Fax: 972.931.5690

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