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## Legislative News Adult Education and Even Start

To the field:

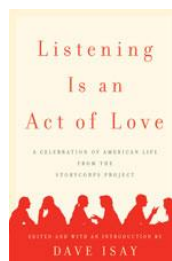
It is with great disappointment that I report the final result of the FY08 appropriations story. The President signed the final appropriations bill that contains a \$9 million cut in adult education funding from last year's total and a \$22 million cut in the Even Start program. The cut to adult education funding came as part of an across the board decrease of 1.747% that was applied to many education programs. As you know we had set a goal of increasing the adult education appropriation by approximately \$200 million so the final outcome is very disheartening. However we all need to acknowledge the commitment of time and energy by our people in the field whose efforts kept us from an even larger cut.

In light of this outcome the Policy Committee and staff of the National Council of State Directors are currently reviewing our advocacy work over the past two years. We will be preparing a new action plan that can be used for the campaign on the FY09 appropriations which begins on the first Monday in February when the President sends that budget to Congress.

Thank you for your fine work in the past. I look forward to working with you as we move adult education into the forefront of educational priorities for our policy makers. I will be back to update you with elements of our new action plan within two weeks.

Art Ellison, Chair, Policy Committee, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education

## Book Review



*Listening is an Act of Love* is a great book that could be used in the classroom. This is a book of stories told by everyday Americans. There are three North Dakotans whose stories are in this book: Sharon St. Aubin, interviewed by her nephew Jerrold Arneson, Dr. Monica Mayer interviewed by her cousin, Spencer Wilkinson, Jr. and Virginia Fairbrother, interviewed by her daughter, Laurel Kaae. The former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley said that is book will make you laugh, cry, and think.

## National Reporting System

Final regulations implementing the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) will be published in the *Federal Register*, Part II, on Jan. 14. <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

The regulations further codify familiar requirements contained in the NRS implementation guidelines that states already address. States will be most interested in Subpart D, which lays out requirements for statewide assessment policies for the NRS that must contain certain elements and be submitted to and approved by OVAE each year. The regulations also describe how tests must be administered locally in order to accurately measure education gains. Other parts of the regulations establish requirements and processes test makers must use to gain the secretary of education's approval for assessments measuring education gains in the NRS.

## National Institute for Literacy (NIFL)

<http://www.nifl.gov/>

This website provides literacy leadership for early childhood, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

### NIFL Webcast

Research-based Approaches to Teaching Reading to Adults, Part I has been archived at:

<http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/webcasts/assesspractice/webcast0928.html>

Reading Assessment Part II-Fluency and Vocabulary will be archived soon.

### Fact Monster

Fact Monster helps students learn about the world, the United States, science, math, words, and much more. Fact Monster can be found at:

[www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com)

### Noetic Learning

Noetic Learning provides teachers with tools to create addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and money worksheets.

<http://www.noetic-learning.com/mathdrill/index.jsp>

### North Dakota in the News



North Dakota made the New York Times on January 1, 2008. The article discussed the oil in ND. To read the article go to: [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/01/us/01dakota.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/01/us/01dakota.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

The Emptied Prairie is another article about North Dakota found in the National Geographic magazine:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/2008-01/emptied-north-dakota/bowden-text.html>

## Grant Writing Tips

Many are receiving grant applications for next year's programs. Here are some grant writing resources on the Internet:

Rural Assistance Center:

[http://www.raonline.org/info\\_guides/funding/grantwriting.php](http://www.raonline.org/info_guides/funding/grantwriting.php)

UND Proposal Writing Assistance:

<http://www.und.edu/dept/RDC/ProposalWriting.htm>

Links to Grant Writing:

[http://www.schoolgrants.org/Links/grant\\_writing.htm](http://www.schoolgrants.org/Links/grant_writing.htm)

Statistical Information:

ND State Data Center: <http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/>

**Note for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant writers: A grant writing workshop is being developed and will be offered very soon. Watch your email for more information and dates.**

### Calendar of Events



#### **February 5-6, 2008**

SIMS Training for Adult Education administrators and staff who enter the SIMS data. Make room reservations at the Seven Seas in Mandan: (701) 663-7401 by January 25, 2008.

#### **September 18-19, 2008**

NDALL Fall Conference – Dr. Richard Cooper will be the main speaker and presenter!! Look at his website at:

<http://www.learningdifferences.com/>

**February Events:**

Children's Authors & Illustrators Week: February 3-9. <http://www.childrensauthorsnetwork.com/>

**March Events:**

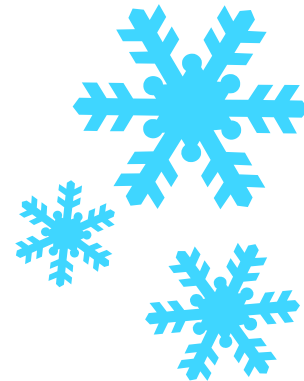
Dr. Seuss's Birthday-March 2  
[http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Dr\\_\\_Seuss/](http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Dr__Seuss/)

Read Across America Day – March 3  
<http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>

**2007 Immigrant Population  
Reaches Record High**

Planners of adult education services take note: the nation's immigrant population reached a record high of 37.9 million in 2007, according to *Immigrants in the United States, 2007: A Profile of America's Foreign-Born Population*. The report, based on Census data, indicates that today's immigrants account for one in eight U.S. residents, the highest level in 80 years. Over 10 million immigrants have arrived since 2000, creating the highest seven-year period of immigration in U.S. history.

Almost one-third of these immigrants have not completed high school, according to the report. The number of immigrants lacking a high school diploma increased by 14 percent in 2007, compared to a 3 percent increase for all workers, the report says.



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