

AEBG and ESL

ESL proficiency is critical to meeting AEBG requirements.

The California Distance Learning Project (CDLP) produced significant learning gains. When the ADA distance learning funding collapsed, we lost the system that produced the gains.

How did the CDLP become successful? Can we match or increase those learning gains?

The CDLP received an unplanned boost with the passage of Proposition 227 or Community Based English Tutoring (CBET) in 1998. Proposition 227's objectives were to teach everyone English and to have families learn together. CBET programs were implemented in elementary districts as well as districts with adult education programs. The CBET programs made extensive use of video based ESL curricula in combinations of classroom and "video checkout" for home use.

In many situations videos (later DVDs) were sent home and the "tutor" became the most advanced English speaker in the home. This increased the learners "time on task" at low or no cost for materials and labor. Data showed that CASAS scores increased substantially with this simple, inexpensive method. (Data is available)

CBET programs made extensive use of the now 28 year old "In-English" and the EASY series. These curricula began to migrate into adult schools as a part of the distance learning programs. The core curricula in many successful distance learning programs became In-English, EASY, Putting English to Work 2 & 3 (now joined by Putting English to Work 1) and Crossroads Café. The Distance Learning Programs were successful in gathering ADA and in increasing CASAS scores. The combination of classroom, individualized meetings and home use (asynchronous learning) proved powerful. When ADA was eliminated as a funding model, the labor intensity of individualized meetings proved too costly. Schools did not adjust back to checking out the visual curricula from classrooms... the very method that produced the original learning gains.

There were many video based curricula on the CDLP applications in the fall of '08. (Go to www.vbkates.com and see chart "Who Uses What") The use of multiple ESL curricula produced the best results. You can see the various curricula used in a biased chart form at www.vbkates.com and see Level Chart

Learning a second language is a challenge for adults. We learned that no curricula or delivery system stands on its own. We have the advantage today of being able to offer many different visually based curricula in many different delivery systems from the most advanced computer based systems, to video streaming, to the inexpensive but effective use of DVD's in the home.

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