# What is one thing you want to know about adult education?

# WIOA

* What will WIOA bring?
* What are plans for implementing WIOA and how will that impact non-workforce programs that focus on building literacy purely for literacy's sake--and overall quality of life?
* How CALIS actually works with college/career and readiness standards and how that all ties in to WIOA.
* How WIOA impacts adult ed
* How WIOA can direct providers to help the neediest while imposing regulations that limit the ability to do so. (e.g. very low literacy) and what we can do to change that.

# Standards & Quality

* How CALIS actually works with college/career and readiness standards and how that all ties in to WIOA.
* Why is there no standard curriculum?

# Information and Access

* What is the distribution of available services by region, literacy level, entry point, etc.?
* How do adult learners discover and access services?
* How many Citizenship classes there are?
* Are there any free programs to help individuals receive their GED?
* Will more adults be aware of and able to take advantage of the adult education opportunities?
* What educational opportunities are available to adult ESL students who reach the highest testing levels in ESL?
* Why there isn't more especially for those leaving prison.
* Where to direct people to learn more about free or low cost adult education opportunities.
* How many of the 100,000 Rhode Islanders have accessed the AE system in RI.
* What types of adult education are available, when and where are they offered.
* What other programs are available to students who may not fit the criteria for what we offer.
* Why are there more adult ed institutions particularly for English Language Learners? Seems as if there is always a wait list for those interested.
* How many agencies are providing adult education?
* Where is the best list of programs?
* Are there any resources out there for serving very low level learners, and if those programs don't exist, are there funding opportunities?
* How well services are communicated/marketed to targeted populations.
* What is the size of the waiting list?
* Although the AE programs are no secret, why isn't more done to make the presence of these opportunities known?
* Why is the AE program not clearly visible in the elementary schools where the young parents who have not completed their educations may be welcomed, informed and helped? (This is NOT suggestion that principals should be involved.)
* How outreach is being done.
* What opportunities are there for adult learners in RI? Where can I direct people to who show an interest in furthering their skills and education?
* Why doesn't the state support low-level ABE? There are so many people at the literacy-GLE 4 level who are not getting served.
* What is preventing people from enrolling in adult education programs?
* Why aren't more services provided at the ACI? It is a captive audience that craves and needs more educational services! Would help reduce unemployment, crime and welfare in RI!
* How to access affordably
* How much publicity is made to attract adult learners?
* Is funding in the new RFP going to provide adequate or in fact any support to low literacy learners who are not focused on improving employment, entering the workforce or secondary education, but are improving their basic literacy because of other personal goals such as improved health, connections with the community, involvement in their child's education etc.
* Is there a single database of resources to link adults to course, workshops, and opportunities?
* How much and where are the opportunities for adult ed in RI
* I would like to have a comprehensive list of all adult education agencies and what services/classes they offer in order to better refer clients.
* Who is it available for? What is the cost?
* Data to inform on the enrollment of ex offenders in community based organizations
* How can we get lawmakers, taxpayers, foundations and donors to understand that K-12 isn't the whole education story? Helping parents helps children.
* Just exactly what are the programs out there? What classes are available and when? Who does what? Maybe some kind of index or infographic for service providers and students, all the info in one place.

# GED

* How and why did the GED test change?
* How well students are doing with the new GED program.
* Impact of the new GED on students and staff and efforts to support that.
* How RIDE chose the new GED provider without going out to bid.
* What is being done to make the GED more attainable for the 30+ group of adults who are lost in Algebra?
* Why the state went with the GED for adult education. With an over 80% drop in recipients last year, what is the point of using a test with two years of algebra and geometry? Does is take being able to solve a quadratic equation to drive a truck? The GED favors younger people, who might remember some algebra, but pretty much assures RI of an undereducated middle aged work force. Also, have information sessions on the changes in the GED been held for RI employers? I don't believe they have a clue that the test has changed.
* I would like to know what the plans are going forward with the GED - are we sticking with it, or changing to another high school equivalent?
* Will the GED test be changing?
* Alternative pathways to attaining high school equivalency

# Career Pathways

* How can we move beyond the notion of Community College for Adult learners? Part of adult ed should contain career pathways for those who may not know what options they have.
* How to access job training and internship programs for adult education clients residing outside of the core city areas.
* How they can tie into work training programs.
* Is career/academic counseling a large part of any/all programs?
* What is the best model(s) for contextualized learning and integrating job training into programs?

# College Transitions

* I would like to know about federal loan forgiveness for first time college freshman who drop out of school. In many cases these young people are not ready for college, do not have the emotional skills, or resources to handle a loan or understand the ramifications of dropping out. It renders them unable to move forward once their prefrontal cortex develops (around age 26) and they want to start again. Many of these students have disabilities like ADD/ADHD. Also, middle income adults do not qualify for subsidized loans!!!! We are the poorest rich people. Financial Aid should be available for working middle class would help them rise in the job market and open up positions for new employees.
* Why is there not a direct connection and more systemic collaboration between AE operators and post-secondary institutions
* Why all students are treated as though they want to attend CCRI as their choice for post-secondary education. There are many adults who are looking for other choices.
* Is career/academic counseling a large part of any/all programs?

# System Structure & Governance

* I would like to know why the current state director does not have more power within the state adult and K-12 system.
* What will the future bring and how will the new commissioner be involved in Adult Education.
* Why is adult learning provided by nonprofits and not directly by the Rhode Island Department of Education?

# Adult Education Workforce

* How can enough volunteers be recruited, trained and successfully matched with adult learners? The number of people who need help is so huge!
* Why have repeated efforts to "professionalize" the field never taken hold?
* Organizations that support adult educators
* Why is funding for teachers only part-time and not full-time?

# Planning & Vision

* What are plans to improve AE in RI?
* Where are we going? What will adult education in RI look like in five years?
* Also, how are we doing?"
* What is the vision of the administration of RIDE for adult education going forward?
* I would love to know the future of adult education in RI.
* The vision for the future - how services can best be organized
* How we are working towards a better culture of lifelong learning opportunities
* What centralized, strategic plans/priorities does RIDE have for RI AE programs?
* The direction and expectations for the future when considering the options for those that have distinct learning disabilities

# Priorities

* What priority does adult education have in the state hierarchy? What is the mission of RI educational agencies specifically for adult learners?
* What are the core beliefs and guiding principals of Adult Education in Rhode Island and what are the funding priorities?
* What are the guiding principles of Adult Education in Rhode Island?

# Funding

* Funding
* Why isn't adult education a priority in RI for funding, recognition and for being an equal participant in the allocation of resources?
* Why the state does not put sufficient funds into adult education. Without the federal funds, there would be no adult education system in RI.
* When is it going to be considered a legitimate and permanent part of the K-12 system and be funded accordingly?
* How to get more funding for transition to college programs.
* Sources of funding for services and learning materials.
* More clarification on how funding happens--how it's measured, where extra funds can come from, how to show gains. Developing better adult ed is a process that can't happen without the funding component.
* Will funding be increased in the future?
* How the funding works.
* Why RIDE cannot get more creative in their funding.
* Why dollars for "adult" 16-18 year olds who drop out of the public school system don't follow them when they re-engage in their education in adult education programs?
* I would like to know how to find funding for our one-on-one program. Coventry Public Library has been home to Literacy Volunteers of Kent County for 35 years. We find it increasingly difficult to function with the loss of funding, first federal grants disappeared and then LSTA grants. Our last RIDE grant was unsuccessful and I feel RIDE is not interested in small but successful programs such as ours.
* Are all programs funded with Dept. of Labor funds transitioning to Common measures in 2015?
* PBF's effects over past funding cycle
* Since we are part of RIDE, why do we not have the same access to resources as K-12?
* Why is funding for teachers only part-time and not full-time?
* What are the funding priorities for Adult Ed in RI? GED prep vs. ESL.
* Is funding in the new RFP going to provide adequate or in fact any support to low literacy learners who are not focused on improving employment, entering the workforce or secondary education, but are improving their basic literacy because of other personal goals such as improved health, connections with the community, involvement in their child's education etc.
* What are the core beliefs and guiding principals of Adult Education in Rhode Island and what are the funding priorities?
* How has the budget kept up with the increasing need?
* What new sources of revenue can support it?

# Collaboration and Coordination

* How we can develop stronger linkages between programs to streamline services through better understanding of individual programs, and reduce duplication of services by "sharing" staff.
* I don't quite understand how the many programs fit together. In other words, it seems to me (as an outsider) that we have many solid organizations offering different programs, but there seems to be little coordination.
* More collaboration amongst educators and administrators. The sharing of instructional resource and the critique of what is and is not working in the classroom. Best teaching practices for GED instruction.
* Why is there not a direct connection and more systemic collaboration between AE operators and post-secondary institutions"
* How the system is linked
* How they can tie into work training programs.
* Why don't local school departments play a part in adult education today like they did many years ago?
* Why isn't adult education more tied in with the public schools?
* Will it be continued to be funded?
* Why there are so many different organizations, some appearing to be doing the same thing.

# Outcomes

* How many students become Citizens from each program? Is there a correlation between citizenship and improved income?
* I would like to know the impact in the minorities in RI and if is not much of an impact, what can it be done to be more successful
* Are all programs funded with Dept. of Labor funds transitioning to Common measures in 2015?
* What are the most recent outcomes of current services

# Practices

* How to heighten English language skills for the projected job markets of tomorrow.
* More collaboration amongst educators and administrators. The sharing of instructional resource and the critique of what is and is not working in the classroom. Best teaching practices for GED instruction.
* How to help adult learners with educational disabilities.
* What is the best model(s) for contextualized learning and integrating job training into programs?
* How it can be more responsive to the changing needs of Adults seeking services in this regard. Examples include more and better use of technology for instruction as well as outreach and recruitment.
* How can adult education meet the needs of the older student who does not have computer skills and does not own a computer? These adults have lost their manufacturing jobs and never had computer training during their school years.

# Workforce and Work Readiness

* Our youth have little mastery of the English language and as jobs continue to be scarce, the competition will fierce. One has to be able to read, write, comprehend and respond to the challenges of today and tomorrow. RI must have a viable workforce in order to improve upon the quality of life of its inhabitants and job growth.
* How to access job training and internship programs for adult education clients residing outside of the core city areas.
* What is the best model(s) for contextualized learning and integrating job training into programs?

# System Evaluation

* What are our gaps? Who are we not reaching and why are we not reaching them? How do we need to change our services in order to meet their needs?
* Is there a coordinated system that tracks the students and their learning?

# Supportive Services

* What programs offer day care?
* Is career/academic counseling a large part of any/all programs?

# Technology

* How it can be more responsive to the changing needs of Adults seeking services in this regard. Examples include more and better use of technology for instruction as well as outreach and recruitment.
* How can adult education meet the needs of the older student who does not have computer skills and does not own a computer? These adults have lost their manufacturing jobs and never had computer training during their school years.

# Comparisons

* How we compare nationally - in terms of structure, number of programs per number of students, attrition rates, and what programs to look at for best practices.

# Program-Specific

* How Providence Community Library can get state funding for its courses.
* I would like to know how to find funding for our one-on-one program. Coventry Public Library has been home to Literacy Volunteers of Kent County for 35 years. We find it increasingly difficult to function with the loss of funding, first federal grants disappeared and then LSTA grants. Our last RIDE grant was unsuccessful and I feel RIDE is not interested in small but successful programs such as ours.
* What is expected of an agency to start GED classes?
* How can I obtain free lessons materials for instructional purposes in order to use them for my ABE classes?

# Other/Unsorted

* Adult literacy seems similar to early childhood literacy
* I want to know why most non-traditional adult learners have very poor math and science skills/knowledge. What can be done to solve this growing problem in our education system?
* Do any of the programs earn credits towards a GED or college degree?
* Why does RIDE frequently give agencies so little time to prepare the various reports or information they ask of us?
* How is credit for life experiences determined?
* How will adult education program play a role in addressing the large unemployment crisis in RI?