NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ALL LEARNING COUNTS

Legislative Advisory Committee
March 16, 2020
What does All Learning Counts mean?

**CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING**

Academic credit granted for demonstrated college-level equivalencies outside of the classroom.

**PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT**

Methods to validate prior learning and award credit.

**ALL LEARNING COUNTS**

A system of learning beyond high school where all learning can be validated and valued regardless of where it happens.

**RECOGNITION OF LEARNING**

Credit for Prior Learning 2.0: Implementation of stackable learning models based on demonstrated competencies.
Declining Numbers of High School Graduates

The number of high school graduates is expected to decline 14% by 2032.
Why is Recognition of Learning Important?

Postsecondary Attainment of Adults

53% of adults in New England have no college degree. 25% have some college experience or an associate's degree.
Why is Recognition of Learning Important?

Equity Gaps in Attainment

In states like Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, attainment gaps are as large as 30 percentage points.
Why is Recognition of Learning Important?

To make progress toward states' attainment goals and meet labor market demands significant numbers of adults in New England must earn postsecondary credentials.

Below is the attainment goals chart:

- **50%**: 322,065 more adults must earn a degree
- **60%**: 1,347,520 more adults must earn a degree
- **65%**: 1,860,247 more adults must earn a degree
- **70%**: 2,372,975 more adults must earn a degree
Fastest Growing Industries in New England

Occupations in fast growing fields like healthcare, computer systems design, life and bioscience research and development and management are more likely to require postsecondary credentials.
TRANSPARENCY + ACCESS
Tennessee Reconnect allows adults to access counselors, financial aid information and credit equivalency tools all in one place.

AFFORDABILITY
Indiana allows scholarships and grants to be used toward the cost of PLA.

CREDIT ACQUISITION
Florida’s Department of Education lists all industry certifications that translate to credit in degree programs.
Recognition of Learning in New England
Institutional Practices

- Community and Completion Colleges are the primary source for CPL
- Costs are not standard
- Transparency around CPL application processes and costs is uneven
- Institutions have not addressed the stackability of microcredentials or industry-recognized credentials
Employers recognize degrees and industry-recognized credentials as signals for skills and competencies. Do not have capacity map on-the-demand skills and requirements to academic pathways. Can better support employees to pursue and earn additional credentials through partnerships and upskilling programs.
State Policy

- Allows institutions to provide CPL
- Asks institutions to provide policies and procedures for awarding CPL
- Requires CPL guidelines for military veterans
NEBHE'S ROLES

- **Survey of Adult Learners**
  To understand how improving Recognition of Learning would impact decisions to pursue education.

- **Policy & Research Reporting**
  To identify gaps and opportunities in state policy and institutional practice.

- **State-based Meetings**
  To establish networks of stakeholders and build momentum.

- **Policy Summit**
  To widely share best practices and connect New England policymakers and higher education leaders with national experts.