

Linda Greer, Kittery Adult and Community Education Director

What challenges did you and your department need to overcome when we entered a remote learning deployment?

Adult Education remote programming began when a few new students had just enrolled to earn diplomas, these new relationships were difficult to engage in on-line Hiset curriculum. Before closure, teachers created a week of instruction to email, we prevented missed classes. Anticipating an access challenge we surveyed students to confirm home computers, internet connection, and updated emails. Teachers and staff learned how to use and move assignments to Google classroom. We quickly began virtual office hours, texted to cell phones, loaned our computers and extended time to complete assignments. Graduation was postponed to August 17th to allow students more time to finish incomplete courses and take more HiSET tests.

Looking forward and recognizing that 'business as usual' may not be upon us in the fall, how will you adjust in order for your department to meet the needs of our students?

Fall programming is being identified and developed to support: workforce access, enhance skills, industry credentials, jobs interviews, English acquisition and diplomas. Classes will be blended with face-to-face instruction and independent on-line assignments. We have requested state and federal resources for computers to ensure access to teachers, course work and testing. We will focus student services to build on relationships, update individual learning plans, and increase assessment of digital literacy to meet the needs of students and the community.