

Launch Event for Accelerated Education Working Group (AEWG)
Talking Points by Brenda Bell

This presentation will describe the use of accelerated education guidance principles to inform policy development with the Liberia Ministry of Education (MoE). The USAID Liberia Advancing Youth Project (2011–2017) conducted action research with the MoE to identify and test out criteria by which the ministry can assess the quality of accelerated education programs and certify program graduates. Officially launched by the ministry in early 2017, the program quality standards are informing the process of aligning accelerated education policies for programs serving older youth (over 15 years old) and children (9–15 years old). This policy development and strengthening work is supported by the USAID-funded Access to Quality Education for Liberian Children (AQE) project (2017–2021).

The Liberian Program Quality Standards predate and yet mirror the AEWG Guidance Principles for Accelerated Education. By examining one country's use of common statements of quality to guide policy development and program improvement, this presentation will make the case for widespread use of the principles by governmental and nongovernmental providers of accelerated education. Particular emphasis will be placed on Accelerated Education principle 2 (Curriculum materials and pedagogy are genuinely accelerated and AE-suitable); AE principle 9 (AEP is a legitimate, credible program option that results in learner certification in primary education); and AE principle 10 (AEP is aligned with the national education system and relevant humanitarian architecture). Examples will be drawn from the consultative, field-based process used to develop and validate the Liberian quality standards and from their use by the MoE at central and county levels.