Introduction to Minnesota’s ABE Content Standards

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Parking Lots and Intersections
Transitions lens
Role of standards
MN ABE Standards
What is the business of adult basic education?
To transition into...

- Workplace, career
- Training, postsecondary
- Deeper community connections

- Does this transitions-lens resonate with you?
- How is your ABE program preparing students for transitions?
What are content standards?

- Describe what students should know and be able to do upon successful completion of an instructional program.
- Provide the foundation for designing curricula, instruction, and assessment.
Why have content standards for ABE?

- Provide a guide to instruction that is based on evidence and research
- Help to close the gap between ABE, post-secondary and the workplace
- Provide a common language for educators that can help to promote alignment among and between levels in a program as well as between programs
- Assure that high-mobility students and students who “stop out” have access to a logical, predictable set of skills all teachers/programs are working toward
- Professionalize the field of ABE
What skills do adult learners need for successful transitions?

- Basic Skills
- Digital Literacy Skills
- Professional / Soft Skills
What skills do adult learners need for successful transitions?

Basic Skills

Digital Literacy Skills

Professional/Soft Skills

Content

How are these skills defined?

• College & Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education
• Transitions Integration Framework

Content for teaching and learning:

• Life Skills
• Occupational
• Science & Social Studies
• Civics/citizenship
• Other

Northstar Digital Literacy Standards
Adult learners need basic academic, professional and digital literacy skills in order to succeed and thrive in post secondary education, the workplace and their communities.
Basic skills necessary for adults transition from adult basic education to post-secondary education or the workplace
An OCTAE (Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education) project designed to:

- Forge a stronger link among adult education, postsecondary, and the world of work
- Provide all adult students with opportunity to be prepared for postsecondary training without needing remediation
CCRS Development Process

- OCTAE convened two review panels—one in math and one in English language arts/literacy (ELA/literacy)—with a wide cross-section of experience and expertise.

- Common Core State Standards served as the basis of discussions (CCSS).

- Gathered feedback from colleagues around the nation and the lead CCSS writers.

- Established an evidence-based process.
The reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires ABE to align to the CCRS and state K-12 standards.

National Reporting System (NRS) levels are being aligned to the CCRS.

Future approved NRS assessments will be aligned to the CCRS.
College and Career Readiness (CCRS)

- English Language Arts & Literacy
- Mathematics
CCRS: ELA & Literacy

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking & Listening
- Foundational Reading Skills (syllables, phonics, word recognition, fluency)
- Language (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, style)
Key Shifts with CCRS - ELA

- Practicing with Greater **Text Complexity**
- Using **Evidence** in Answers and Analysis
- **Building Knowledge** with Nonfiction
CCRS: Math

- The Number System
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement & Data
- Statistics & Probability
- Functions
Key Shifts with CCRS - Math

- **Focus:** Narrow the scope of content taught and go deeper
- **Coherence:** Design learning around coherent progressions
- **Rigor:** Develop
  - Conceptual understanding
  - Procedural skill and fluency
  - Real-life application
  - *All with equal intensity!*
CCRS – questions and resources!

Need more professional development around CCRS?

- Online resource library
  http://atlasabe.org/resources/content-standards

- Online Moodle course (CCRS Foundations):
  http://online.themlc.org

- Regional events

- Cohort (full for 2016-2017)
The Transitions Integration Framework (TIF) is the guide for professional or soft skills in ABE programming and instruction.
A framework and strategies for integrating transitions at all levels...a transitions lens through which we can view instruction.
Teaching with a Transitions Lens

There are 6 categories in the TIF. What do you guess they are?
TIF Categories

- Effective Communication
- Learning Strategies
- Critical Thinking
- Self-management
- Developing a Future Pathway
- Navigating Systems
Why the need for transition skills?

- Changing economical/work landscape (National Center on Education and the Economy, Workforce Development Strategies Group, 2009)
- Movement away from survival English to rigorous, rich curricula aligned with real needs (Wrigley, 2007)
- Gaps in what we teach in adult ESL and what is needed for success post-secondary (Johnson & Parrish, 2010)
TIF Contains

- Categories and definitions
- Skills and sub-skills
- Sample activities ranging from simple to complex
- Ideas to contextualize for community, school or work
Matching Categories to TIF Skills

- Form a group of 3-4 people
- Look at the TIF categories
- Read the skills on the paper strips
- Match the skills with the correct TIF category

HINT:
- EC- 3
- LS- 4
- CT- 4
- SM- 3
- DFP-3
- NS- 3
Need more professional development around ACES?

- Online resource library
  [http://atlasabe.org/resources/aces](http://atlasabe.org/resources/aces)
- Online Moodle course (ACES 101):
  [http://online.themlc.org](http://online.themlc.org)
- Regional events
- PLCs (content ready for you to use!)
Northstar Digital Literacy Standards
All adult learners need digital literacy skills … to succeed at work, school and in their communities.
Why is Digital Literacy Important?

“The current workplace demands a skill set that surpasses traditional literacy skills in realizing job opportunity. The newly literate must now achieve a level of digital literacy to accompany the traditional literacy efforts.” (Slagter van Tryon, 2013)

“Being able to work in a paperless environment is becoming more important as online billing, job postings and applications and access to numerous services are only available online.” (Badke, 2008)
Northstar Digital Literacy Standards

- Basic Computer Skills
- World Wide Web
- Windows
- Mac OS
- Email
- Word
- Social Media
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Information Literacy
Some examples of the Northstar Digital Literacy Standards

**Basic Computer Skills**

1. Distinguish between desktop and laptop computers.
2. Identify specific computer hardware: a system unit, monitor, printer, keyboard, mouse or touchpad, USB port
3. Turn computer and monitor on and off
4. Log on to computer
5. Demonstrate knowledge of function and placement of keys on keyboard: Enter, Shift, Control, Backspace, Delete, Arrow Keys, Tab, Caps Lock, Number Lock
6. Identify types of mice: mouse and touchpad
7. Identify mouse pointer shapes and match them to the correct context of use: typing arrow (text), arrow (basic clicking), hand pointer (clickable links)
8. Demonstrate appropriate use and ability to right-click and left-click
9. Double click and right click
10. Drag and drop
11. Use mouse to select check boxes, use drop-down menus and scroll
12. Adjust volume and mute audio
13. Plug in headphones correctly and use when appropriate
Northstar – questions and resources!

I’m still puzzling over…

How do I learn more?

Need more professional development around Northstar?

- Website: www.digitalliteracyassessment.org
- Online Moodle course (*Digital Literacy Integration for ABE*): http://online.themlc.org
- Regional events
Where can I learn more?

Find out more about MN ABE content standards at:
http://atlasabe.org/professional/content-standards
“The new standards offer a rare opportunity, if we seize it, to make some major shifts in moving...to approaches that richly cultivate the cognitive and communicative potentials of every student.”

- Jeff Zwiers, 2014