

Research Topic in Adult Basic Education (ABE): Managing A Multi-Level/Multi-Subject Classroom

Importance of this Research

Literacy Action Network (LAN) conducted Focus Groups with ABE professionals statewide. There is a critical need for research in ABE. The Professional Issues Committee has identified a number of research topics to be pursued by university students. Additional topics are available at the LAN website:

<http://www.literacyactionnetwork.org/>

You are encouraged to use the LAN Professional Issues Committee as a resource and share results to help improve the ABE field. Potential formats for sharing results include posting links to research on the LAN website, attending a Professional Issues Committee meeting or presenting at the annual ABE Summer Institute conference.

Research Topic:

Classroom management strategies for the multi-level/multi-subject classroom

Sample research question:

- How does an instructor best manage a classroom where learners have such diverse skills and needs?

Background:

Defining the Issue

Instructors in smaller programs and in GED preparation classrooms face an array of learning needs every day. Smaller programs quite often meet in multi-level learning lab settings. For example, at the Dakota Prairie ABE site in Northfield, MN, the morning class is ESL and GED combined. One teacher directs the learning of many learners on many topics at the same time. Learners are assessed using either CASAS or TABE. Individualized Learning Plans are set for each learner. Instructors will need to develop strategies for best meeting the needs of individual, multi-level/multi-subject learners.

Defining the Terms

ABE = Adult Basic Education; a state and federally funded program through the Department of Education to serve adults wanting to earn their GED, learn English, gain basic literacy skills, and prepare for the world of work or post-secondary education. ABE programs can be found throughout the entire state of Minnesota in schools, correctional facilities and nonprofit organizations.

Target Learner Population

The studies would target all ABE learners, those born in the United States and attending Basic Skills, GED, Transitions to Work, or any other ABE class and those who have English Language Learning needs.

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Adult Basic Education Web Site

<http://mnabe.themlc.org>

Literacy Action Network Web Site

<http://www.literacyactionnetwork.org/>