ABE FOUNDATIONS
Welcome and Introductions

- Facilitator: Janet Sparks
- Technical Issues: Raise hand or chat to Karla Vien
- PPT will be available after at literacyactionnetwork.org
- Next webinar will cover Policy, Accountability and Assessment in December
What you need

- ABE Acronyms
- Overview of ABE in Minnesota
- MN ABE Funding
- MN ABE Delivery System
- ABE Consortia Map
- MDE Staff Contact List
Objectives

- Define ABE
- Give overview of WIOA legislation
- Identify common student goals
- Name types of ABE students
- Explain govt ABE systems and funding sources
- Discuss content standards
- Share resources for further info
What does it stand for?

ACES
ATLAS
CASAS
CCRS
DL
ESL
LAN
MDE
PANDA
TABE
SID
MFIP
The **mission** of Adult Basic Education in Minnesota is to provide adults with **educational opportunities** to acquire and improve their **literacy skills** necessary to become **self-sufficient** and to participate effectively as **productive workers, family members, and citizens**.
Overview of MN ABE

65,000-75,000 adult students served annually
More than 1,400 staff, approximately:
- 950 teachers (68% are part-time)
- 200 paraprofessionals
- 50 counselors and
- 184 administrators

More than 1,400 trained volunteers
Annual total funding = $55,000,000
Minnesota’s ABE Students
WHO does ABE serve?
Minnesota ABE Student Demographics

In program year 2015-2016:

1. Minnesota ABE programs served 66,000 students, for 5.5 million contact hours
2. 39% identified as ESL
3. 17% incarcerated
4. 8% reported no prior education
5. 686* completed a secondary credential (GED or adult diploma)

* under-reported
Eligibility for ABE

Must be:
- 17 and over
- not enrolled in secondary school
- seeking a secondary credential or functioning below the 12th grade level in any of the basic academic areas (reading, math, writing and speaking English)
Potential ABE Student Roster

Which of these people are eligible for ABE services?

○ Yes, why?
○ No, why not?
Josh comes in for GED classes. He is 16 years old. Is he eligible for ABE?
Ariana is 18 years old. Is she ABE eligible?
Raj is a high school graduate.
Is he ABE eligible?
Amanda comes into your ABE class at the correctional facility. She just wants to study budgeting skills. Should she be enrolled in ABE?
Sheldon only wants to learn computer skills so he can get a job. Should you enroll him in ABE?
Information collected at intake

- Name
- Address, phone number, email address
- Sex
- Ethnicity and race
- Social security number (student may decline)
- Primary language
- Date and country of birth
- Location of and highest grade level completed
- Employment status (labor force status)
ABE Student Labor Force Status
does any work at all for pay or profit, including
- full-time
- part-time
- temporary work
UNEMPLOYED

Contacts:
- a public or private employment agency
- friends or relatives in attempt to get a job
- a school or university employment center
UNEMPLOYED

- has a job interview
- submits resumes and/or fills out applications
- answers job advertisements
- checks union or professional registers
- some other means of active job search
PASSIVE

attending a job training program or course
merely reading about job openings that are posted in newspapers or on the Internet
do not have a job and are not looking for one
Faduma has completed applications with three hospitals for jobs. However, she won’t finish the FastTRAC CNA course until June and doesn’t want to start work before then.

**Probable Answer**: Not in the Labor Force
David typically works only during the summer and not in the winter. He has not had roofing jobs yet for this summer. He has been asking his buddy who has a construction crew about jobs.

**Probable Answer**: Unemployed
Omar is 22 years old, and is about to be released from the county jail. He has been completing applications and resumes, hoping to find work.

**Probable Answer**: Not in the Labor Force
Mai is registering for classes. She has difficulty with conversation in English. When you ask her if she has a job, she says she helps her brother at his restaurant on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. That is all the information you get; you don’t know if she gets paid.

Probable Answer: Employed
WHAT do we teach ABE students?
The core content areas of ABE are:

- Reading
- Writing
- Mathematics
- Speaking
- Listening
- ESL/ELL
- GED/H.S. Diploma
Supplemental content areas include:

- Citizenship/civics
- Basic technology skills
- Employability skills
- Study skills
- Health or financial literacy
POP QUIZ

1. T or F: Math is a core content area in ABE.

2. T or F: Citizenship is a core content area in ABE.

3. T or F: GED completion is a supplemental content area in ABE.
STUDENT GOALS

and how do they connect to retention...
Why do adults participate in ABE?

How do the student’s goals affect their participation and what we offer for services?
Unemployment Rates

National Rate 4.2%\(^1\)

Without a high school diploma = 14.5%\(^2\)

\(^1\) National Conference fro State Legislatures
\(^2\) Employment Policies Institute
Adult Secondary Credentials

3 Options in MN
1. Credit-Based High School Diplomas
2. GED
3. Standard Adult Diploma
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Main Measure</th>
<th>Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Diploma (credit completion/recovery)</td>
<td>Credits (Grades, Instructional Hours)</td>
<td>Local K-12 School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED Diploma</td>
<td>Passing Test Scores</td>
<td>GED Testing Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Adult Diploma</td>
<td>Demonstration of Competencies</td>
<td>Minnesota Department of Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GED Test

1. RLA (Reasoning through Language Arts)
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Studies

- Official online practice test: GED Ready
What is the Standard Adult Diploma?

- Mixed competency-based in academic, career, and digital literacy skill areas
- Diploma issued by MDE, but statute encourages districts to award local district diploma to state adult diploma graduates
Thoughts? Questions?

Since there are 3 options for Minnesota adults to get their secondary credential (credit-based diploma, GED, and standard adult diploma):

- How do they differ?
- Which options would be best for which ABE students? What factors should we consider?
MINNESOTA'S ADULT BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM
What is the NRS?

National Reporting System

- This defines the accountability requirements defined by the U.S. Department of Education.
### Student Levels defined by NRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESL</th>
<th>ABE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESL 1: Beginning ESL Literacy</td>
<td>ABE 1: Beginning ABE Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 2: Low Beginning ESL</td>
<td>ABE 2: Beginning Basic Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 3: High Beginning ESL</td>
<td>ABE 3: Low Intermediate ABE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 4: Low Intermediate ESL</td>
<td>ABE 4: High Intermediate ABE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 5: High Intermediate ESL</td>
<td>ABE 5: Low Adult Secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 6: Advanced ESL</td>
<td>ABE 6: High Adult Secondary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are also called **EFLs**, or **Educational Functioning Levels**
NRS Educational Level Gains

How do you determine “educational gain” in ABE?

Educational Gain in ABE = Completing an NRS Level on an approved standardized assessment
What tests do we use?

NRS - Approved Tests

1. CASAS
2. TABE
3. BEST Plus
ABE at the state level

State ABE office at the Minnesota Department of Education:
- Todd Wagner, state ABE director
- Brad Hasskamp, policy and secondary credentials
- Astrid Liden, professional development
- Julie Dincau, transitions
- Jodi Versaw, program quality
- Cherie Eichinger, administrative support
- Alice Smith, GED records
ABE at the local level
ABE at the local level

What ABE program do you work for?
What consortium is your ABE program part of?
What other programs or districts are in your consortium?
Who can you ask if you don’t know the answers to these questions?
STANDARDS IN ABE

CCRS, ELP, TIF and Northstar
Discussion: Content standards

- Have you used content standards in your practice?
- How have standards helped you and your students?
Skills our students need...
What skills do adult learners need for successful transitions?

- **Basic Skills**
  - How are these skills defined?
    - College & Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education
    - Transitions Integration Framework

- **Digital Literacy Skills**
  - How are these skills defined?
    - Northstar Digital Literacy Standards

- **Professional/Soft Skills**
  - Content for teaching and learning:
    - Life Skills
    - Occupational
    - Science & Social Studies
    - Civics/citizenship
    - Other

**MN ABE Content Standards**
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.
Content standards are **NOT**

- a curriculum
- a set of lesson plans
- meant to be taught from cover to cover
- a full spectrum of support and interventions for students
Content standards in K-12 vs ABE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K-12</th>
<th>ABE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curricula aligned to standards readily available</td>
<td>Many existing instructional resources are not yet aligned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District or school selects curriculum to be used</td>
<td>Teachers may be responsible for selecting and/or developing curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>CCRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Literacy &amp; Math)</td>
<td>ELP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitions</td>
<td>TIF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Professional &amp; Soft)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Literacy</td>
<td>Northstar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Technology)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOURCES

Where to turn for help
Online resources

For materials
- online.themlc.org
- Newsela.com
- Readworks.org
- Flocabulary.com

For methodologies
- Achievethecore.org
- atlasABE.org
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Keep improving!
PD Opportunities

Keep current with ongoing professional development.

Check the atlasABE.org website for a calendar for upcoming PD opportunities.

Subscribe to the newsletter, MN Connect.

Attend our annual conference, Summer Institute (August, St. Cloud).

Event Description:
CCRS Implementation Cohort - Fall 2017 Workshop

atlas ABE Teaching & Learning Advancement System

City:
Burnsville, MN

Date:
October 5 - October 6

Time:

Location:
Best Western Premier, 14201 Nicollet Ave., Burnsville, MN 55337

Details: A two-day workshop for Minnesota ABE programs that have applied and are participating in the CCRS Implementation Cohort - an intensive, long-term, professional development opportunity - in FY18 (2017-2018). Participation in this training will prepare program teams to align curriculum and instruction to the CCR standards and develop a long-term standards implementation plan.
Thank you!!!  Questions???

Feel free to email me if you have any questions: janetlsparks@gmail.com
Complete evaluation to let us know how we did and how we can serve you better!