



ABE Policy and High School Equivalency Testing

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Advancing ABE Policy

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ABE Policy Changes



Now Posted

- Revised **Assessment Policy** approves TABE 11/12 and CASAS GOALS.
- New **Records Retention Policy** clarifies what records/documents ABE programs need to keep.

Coming Soon

- Revised **Program Improvement Policy** will be posted in October.

Finding the Minnesota ABE Policies

Minnesota Adult Basic Education

www.mnabe.org/abe-law-policy

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- About ABE in MN
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ABE Law, Policy and Guidance

The system of Adult Basic Education in Minnesota is defined, regulated and supported by:

- [Federal law \(Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act or WIOA\)](#);
- [State law](#); and
- [Policies developed by MDE-ABE staff](#)

For further information on ABE law, policy and guidance, contact:

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How do state ABE policies develop or change?

Common Origins

1. Request from the field
2. Federal requirement (e.g. U.S. Departments of Education or Labor, Presidential Order)
3. State requirement (e.g. Legislature, Education Commissioner, State WIOA Plan)
4. Recommendation from ABE Support Network (supplemental service provider)
5. Special Task Force

**MINNESOTA ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (ABE)
STUDENT PROGRESS POLICY
EFFECTIVE – OCTOBER 1, 2007**

ABE STUDENT PROGRESS POLICY SUMMARY AND KEY POINTS

Policy Summary: In order to receive ABE services or instruction, eligible students must have an educational goal that aligns with the scope of the Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs) described in the federal ABE accountability system, the National Reporting System (NRS). The Minnesota ABE Student Progress Policy addresses currently enrolled students in the ABE system who are not showing defined educational progress within the NRS. In accordance with this policy, all ABE students, with the exception of Work-Based Project Learners, (WBPLs), High Adult Secondary Education (ASE) and Citizenship-only students must show NRS level completion within 24 months of service. At the end of a student's 24 months of service, ABE programs will need to identify non-progressing students. At that time, a progress intervention plan will need to be implemented for the identified student(s) and student progress will be monitored for no longer than 6 months.

Key Points included in the ABE Student Progress Policy:

- Definition of student progress
- Definition of 24 months of service
- Comprehensive progress intervention plan that addresses non-progressing students
- Progress intervention plan action steps
- Options for ABE students who do not meet the criteria of the progress intervention plan

The following information includes policy definitions and discussion from the ABE Student Progress Policy Committee, a group comprised of ABE program managers, teachers, program support staff with consultation from MDE-ABE staff.

SECTION ONE: Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)-ABE Student Progress Policy Position Statement

It is the position of MDE-ABE that eligible ABE students who are receiving free education services through ABE programs must have National Reporting System (NRS) educational goals

WIOA Redefining “Adult Education”

Academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual’s ability to:

Read, write, and speak in **English** and perform **mathematics** or other activities necessary for the attainment of a secondary school **diploma** or its recognized equivalent;

Transition to **postsecondary** education and training; AND

Obtain **employment**.

Source: WIOA Section 203

Issue: Language of Instruction

Overview

Currently there is an ABE policy from 2004 that does not allow instruction to be offered in any language other than English. The state ABE office has been getting feedback and talking with local ABE programs about eliminating the policy.

Policies Involved

- Policy on Teaching Languages Other than English
- Eligible Content Policy

Decision

Eliminate the “Policy on Teaching Languages Other than English.”



Issue: Potential ABE Students and Visas

Overview

Currently a potential student is ineligible for ABE if they have certain types of visas. Some ABE programs have created fee-based classes to serve certain students.

Policies Involved

- Eligible Student Policy
- *Federal Visa requirements*

The Decision

The State ABE Office will simplify guidance on ineligible visas later this fall.



Issue: Eligible Instructional Content

Overview

ABE programs in Minnesota are aligning instruction to ABE content standards. The Eligible Content Policy does not include any mention of ABE content standards or the allowable activities under WIOA.

Policies Involved

- Eligible Content Policy

The Question

Look for an updated policy later this year.



Issue: Counting GED Testing Hours

Overview

Current policy only allows a testing center to count 7.5 hours yet students need to arrive early to check in with the local GED Testing Center, adding roughly 30 minutes per testing session. Current testing (full battery) is 445 minutes. The average tester takes 1-2 tests per session.

Policies Involved

- GED Testing Center Contact Hours Policy
- Contact Hour Policy
- Contact Hour Counting Policy

The Question

How much should we increase the maximum number of GED testing hours allowed to be counted?



Issue: Staff and Volunteer Training Standards

Overview

Currently the volunteer training standards are outdated and there are no state-level standards for administrative or support staff or standards for instructors in non-district ABE programs.

Policies Involved

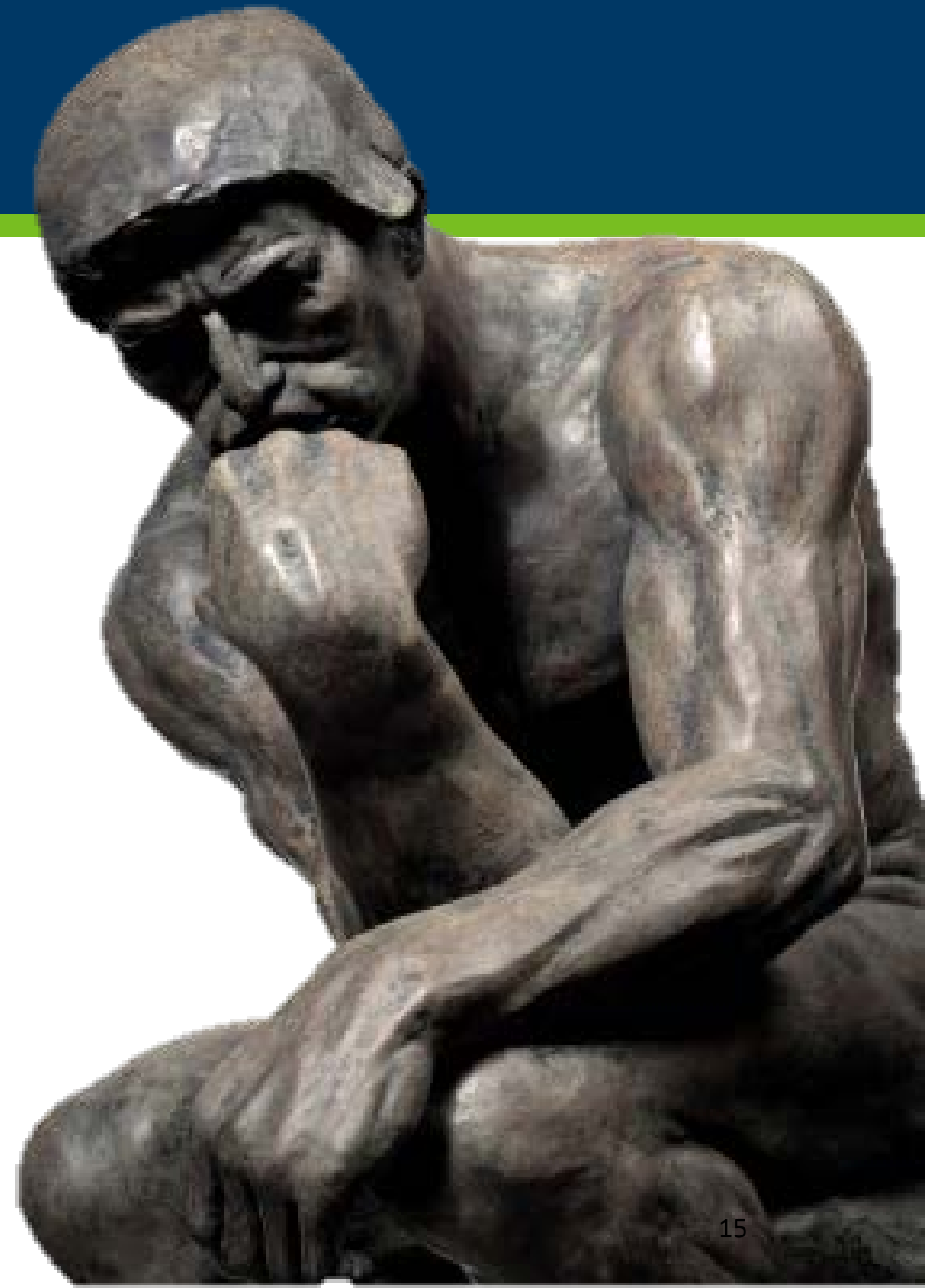
- Volunteer Training Standards Policy
- State Statute on Licensure

The Question

What should the standards be for volunteers and staff in different roles in training?



**What other
questions do
you have?**



Questions?

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