



ABE Policy Talk: Your Feedback Needed!

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ABE Summer Institute (August 2018)

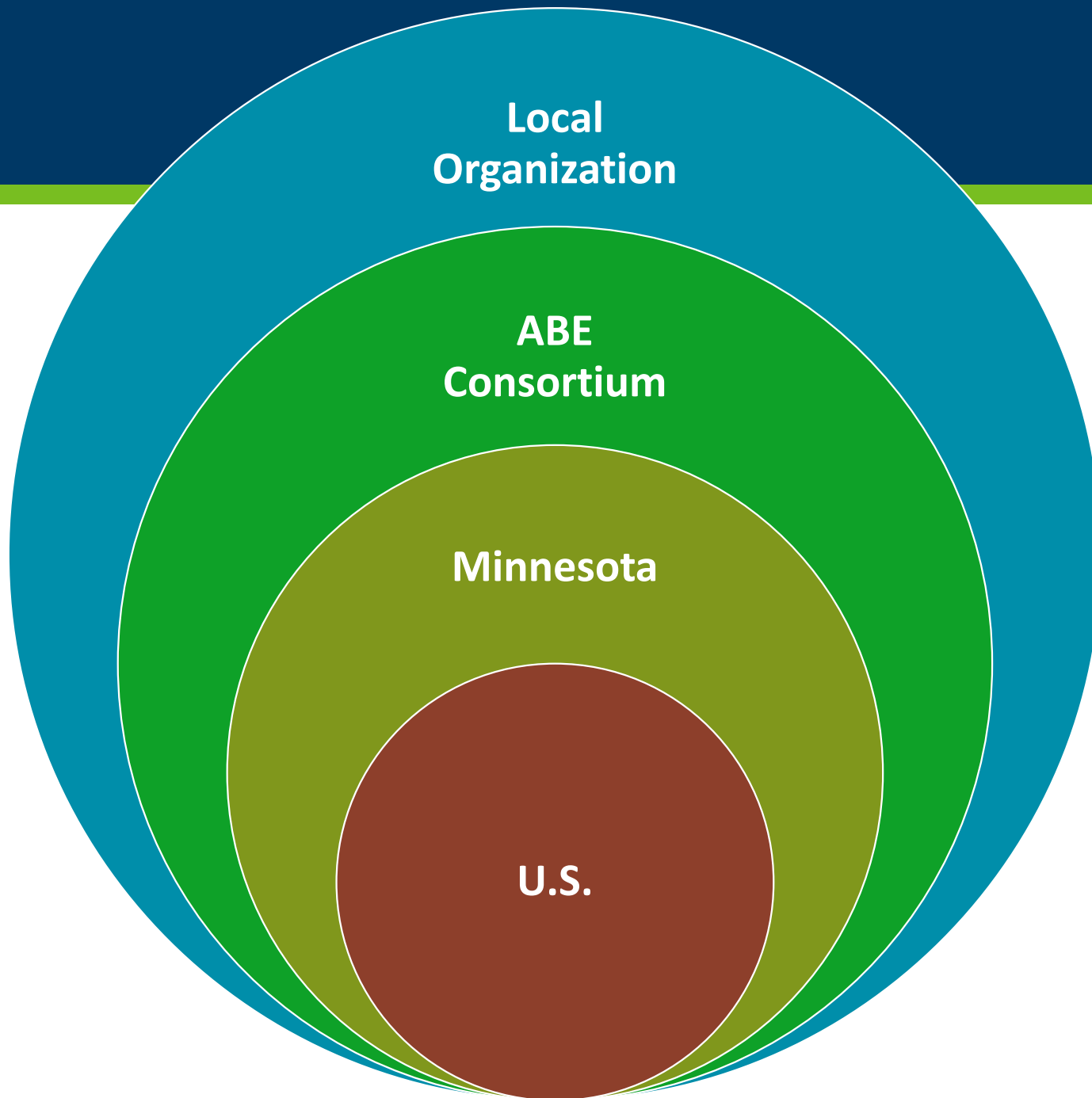
Getting Started: Share in small groups



- What is your name?
- Where do you work?
- What is your experience with ABE? With policy?
- What questions and/or feedback do you have regarding ABE and its policies?

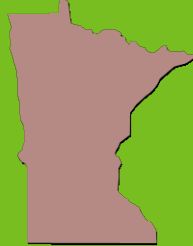


(Write questions on post its.)

ABE Policy Levels



- Federal
- State
- Consortium
- Local Organization

What do we mean by “the state?”

Entity	Description
State	 <p data-bbox="1666 582 2303 686">Minnesota</p>
Organization	 <p data-bbox="1391 825 2040 965">DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</p>
Office	 <p data-bbox="1289 1086 2303 1250">State ABE Office Office of Career and College Readiness</p>

How do state ABE policies develop?

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

Finding the Minnesota ABE Policies

Minnesota Adult Basic Education

www.mnabe.org/abe-law-policy

- Home
- About ABE in MN
- ▶ ABE delivery system
- ▶ ABE instruction
- ▶ ABE content standards
- ▶ Career pathways
- Distance learning
- Professional development
- Upcoming events
- ▶ Supplemental services
- ▶ ABE funding and grants
- ▼ ABE law and policy

[Home](#) / [ABE Law, Policy and Guidance](#)

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:

- Todd Wagner, State ABE Director at 651-582-8466 [📞](#) or todd.wagner@state.mn.us
- Brad Hasskamp, Adult Secondary and Education Policy Specialist at 651-582-8594 [📞](#) or brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us

Policy Sources

Level	Organization	Sources
Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress • U.S. Dept. of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Career Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) • National Reporting System (NRS) • Federal Register • Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislature • Minnesota Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State ABE Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota State Statute • Grant Assurances & Requirements • State ABE Policies • State ABE Memos and Technical Assistance • Minnesota Department of Education Rulemaking
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABE Consortium • Fiscal Agent • City • School District • Organization/Site • Labor Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District, Union & Organization Rules • Employment Contracts • Community Norms/Regulations • Supervisor Direction

Small Group Discussions

- **What issues are you dealing with in your local consortia?**
- **How could state ABE policy help resolve these issues?**
- **What additional questions do you have about ABE policy?**



Large Group
Share Out

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

The Question

- Should we change or 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 Question

- Should we change the definition of eligible students regarding certain visas?



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. Also, some ABE programs want to offer classes that are considered conditional content without core content.

Policies Involved

- Eligible Content Policy

The Question

- Should we change the definition of eligible content for ABE?



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

- Should we change 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 hiring and training?



What other questions and issues do you see?

1. What is the issue?
2. What policies are involved?
3. What factors should we consider?
4. What is the key question to resolve?



Small Groups: Build Recommendations



Focus on an issue to develop a recommendation with detailed potential solutions:

- **Be specific! (Note which policies to change. Articulate specific language rewrites you recommend.)**
- **Why and who could this help?**
- **Who might disagree and why?**
- **Side effects or unintended consequences?**
- **Any possible cost?**

Share and Vote

- 1. Share recommendations**
- 2. Questions and ideas from others**
- 3. Group vote**



Next Steps



- 1. State ABE Team meeting and discussion**
- 2. ABE Manager Meeting (September 25, 2018)**
- 3. Approved changes made to policies will be emailed and posted on www.mnabe.org**

Thank you!

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