

The Massachusetts ABE Curriculum Frameworks

AN OVERVIEW

Developed by the SABES
Curriculum & Assessment Team

The Massachusetts ABE Curriculum Frameworks are:

- ❑ A collection of teaching philosophies and practices that Massachusetts adult educators have identified as important
 - ❑ A compilation of skills and knowledge that adult educators have identified as important for ESOL and ABE students to acquire
 - ❑ Not “curriculum” but guides for curriculum development
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The Six Curriculum Frameworks:

Basic Skills Focused:

- English Language Arts (ELA)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Mathematics and Numeracy

Content Focused:

- History & the Social Sciences
- Science & Technology/Engineering
- Health

The Common Chapters

A brief prelude that contains:

- ❑ “Habits of Mind” for effective learning—
e.g., patience
- ❑ “Guiding Principles” for a conducive
environment—e.g., Students/staff should
have high expectations.
- ❑ Suggestions for how to use the Frameworks
- ❑ Useful resources for developing curriculum

Each Framework includes:

- Core Concepts
- Guiding Principles*
- Habits of Mind*
- Strands
- Standards
- Benchmarks (not in all Frameworks)

** similar to, but more specific than, those in the Common Chapters*

Core Concepts

An articulation of the importance of a particular Framework area to the lives of adult learners.

E.g., you'll find this on page 12 of the Math CF:

“Adults develop numeracy skills and mathematical fluency through actions involving problem solving, reasoning, decision making, communicating, and connecting in curriculum that links to their own mathematics knowledge, experience, strategies, and goals.”

Guiding Principles

The underlying tenets that support effective learning, teaching, and assessment for a particular Framework area.

You'll find this on page 8 of the English Language Arts CF:

"Students practice all of the skills of the language arts curriculum in the classroom, with varied materials, in multiple formats."

Habits of Mind

Reasoned, purposeful, & transferable thinking patterns that are developed by study of the particular Framework area.

E.g., you'll find these explained in detail on Pages 10-11 in the Science & Tech/Engineering CF:

Curiosity

Open-Mindedness

Creativity

Wonderment

Confidence

Content Strands

Organized categories of what adult learners need to know and be able to do within a certain Framework area.

E.g., these are the Strands of the ESOL CF:

- **Listening**
- **Speaking**
- **Reading**
- **Writing**
- **Navigating Systems**
- **Developing Strategies/Resources for Learning**
- **Intercultural Knowledge & Skills**

Learning Standards

The knowledge and skills within each strand to be mastered by adult learners.

E.g., here are the three Standards within the Writing Strand of the English Language Arts CF:

1. Learners will express themselves through writing for a variety of purposes.
2. Learners will apply knowledge of English vocabulary, language structure, and mechanics when they write.
3. Learners will use a variety of strategies to convey meaning through written English.

Proficiency Levels & Benchmarks

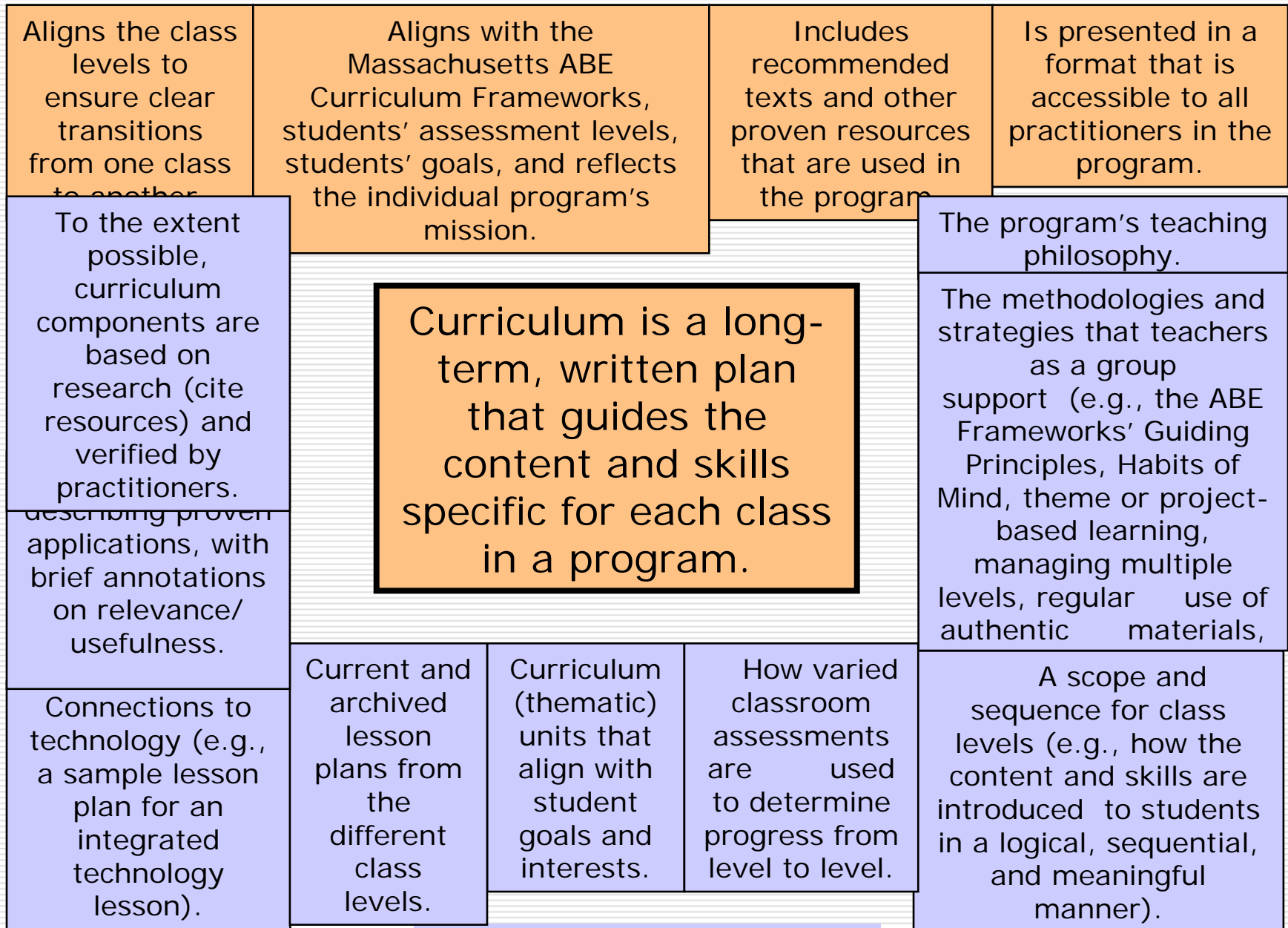
- ❑ Some CFs also provide Proficiency Levels, which describe what students at a certain level know and can do in relation to what is being measured.
- ❑ And some CFs also provide Benchmarks, which describe the specific set of skills learners need to develop to meet a particular standard.

Proficiency Levels & Benchmarks

E.g., you'll find these in the chart on Page 33 of ESOL CF:

- ❑ Standard 1 (top of page): “English language learners will comprehend spoken English from a variety of sources for various purposes.”
- ❑ Proficiency Level (top left box): “Beginning Literacy, SPL 0-1”
- ❑ Benchmark L1.1a (directly below): “Follow non-verbal clues (e.g. pause, quizzical expression) and rising intonation to determine when a response is expected”

BASIC COMPONENTS



BEYOND THE BASICS

Key Resources

- SABES Curriculum & Assessment Coordinators (CACs)
- SABES Library—and our Librarian.
- SABES & ACLS Websites
 - www.sabes.org
 - www.doe.mass.edu
 - Assessment Policy Manuals
 - Curriculum Frameworks
- Professional development activities