

ABE Teacher Licensure

Does your employer require you to possess a teaching license?

The ABE Teacher's License may be the answer!

The *SABES PD Center for Educational Leadership and Strengthening ABE Programs* has launched a NEW support system for ABE license seekers. It includes:

- An *ABE Licensure Prep Course*, a 36-hour hybrid course which provides a scaffolded framework of interactive assignments and spaced full-day workshops to cover all elements of the license portfolio (for eligible Route 4 practitioners only)
- Support in the pursuit of the MA Tests for Educational Licensure (MTEL), development of performance portfolio and teaching demonstration.
- The opportunity to join an online community of license seekers, facilitated by content-specific licensure coaches
- Face-to-face support at quarterly full-day workshops / cohort meetings
- Technology support to assist with electronic portfolio development and online collaboration tools
- Access to a wealth of resources—available on the SABES website and in the online course

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System for Adult Basic Education Support
Training Leaders in Adult Basic Education

About the ABE Teacher's License

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Teacher's License is a generalist license, meaning it is not content specific. It is approved by the Board of Education and valid in Massachusetts. By regulation, the license is voluntary but may be required by some ABE programs within the state.

Benefits of Licensure

With the increase in academic rigor spurred by the implementation of the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education, pursuing an ABE Teacher's License provides applicants the opportunity to

- critically assess their knowledge and teaching practices
- increase the effectiveness of their classroom instruction to better meet students' needs
- strengthen the quality of their program

Types of License

| Provisional | Professional |
|---|--|
| <p>This entry level license is valid for 5 years. It is <u>not</u> renewable. To be eligible for a Provisional ABE Teacher's License, applicants must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree (any subject)• Pass the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication and Literacy Skills• ABE Subject Matter Test | <p>This level of licensure is valid for 5 years and is renewable. To be eligible for a Professional ABE Teacher's License, applicants must meet the two criteria listed under Provisional plus the following*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75 hour Pre-practicum• 15 hour Field-survey• 150 hour Practicum• Performance Assessment (portfolio)• Demonstration of teaching• 15-hour <i>Foundations for New Staff</i> workshop series |

Professional Standards

There are four key principles that build the foundation for the licensure's professional standards. The license process must be meaningful, fair, accessible, and inclusive. The professional standards have been designed specifically for teachers of ABE. As such, they are intended to be broad enough to allow for the variety of educational settings in which ABE takes place and flexible enough to allow for growth and development in a continually changing field.

There are 29 professional standards within the following six areas:

1. Understanding the Adult Learner
2. Diversity and Equity
3. Instructional Design and Approaches
4. Facilitating the Learning Environment
5. Learner Assessment and Evaluation
6. Professionalism/Continuing Education

Routes to Professional Licensure

Depending upon an applicant's years of ABE teaching experience or currently held Massachusetts teacher's license, applicants may qualify to pursue one of four routes to licensure. These routes are designed to acknowledge the skills and experiences that current ABE teachers may already possess.

- **Route 1:** Prospective or novice teachers
- **Route 2:** Prospective or novice teachers with a current preK-12 teacher's license, but no ABE teaching experience.
- **Route 3:** ABE teachers with at least one year of ABE teaching experience plus a current preK-12 teacher's license.
- **Route 4:** ABE teachers with at least five years of ABE teaching experience.

**Requirements vary depending on which route to licensure applicants qualify to pursue.*