



# Adult Basic Education Basics

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Accountability and Assessment



# ABE Accountability

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Accountability requirements exist to ensure ABE providers are responsible and positive stewards of Public funds

Look at student performance and contact hours of service

# Measurable Skill Gain (MSG)

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- Academic Level Gain
- Diploma
- ABE exit followed by college entry
- HS credits (coming soon)

# How is accountability tracked?

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- Programs enter data in the Student Information Database (SID)
- MN Department of Education aggregates data, reports to feds and provides results back to the field
- Some measure will be captured in future via data matching by the State with SS#s

# What data is entered in SID?

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- Student information (demographics, etc.)
- Student attendance (contact hours)
- Student Assessment results
- Other data (volunteers, goals, varies by program)

# Information collected at intake

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- 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)

# Contact Hour Policy

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ABE Contact Hours are:

- Time spend in intake and assessment
- Time spent in ABE classroom or synchronous online class
- Time spent with ABE trained volunteers
- Time spend on distance learning on a platform (proxy hours)

# Distance Learning and collecting hours

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- Proxy hours for work on approved platform
  - Time allocated for successful lesson completion of student work outside of class time
- Time on Synchronous classes count
  - Online or on the phone
- Do not double count hours online proxy and in person



# Distance Learning Platforms

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- There are a large number of platforms that are approved for use to get proxy hours:
  - Free
  - Cost
- Can submit for consideration
- More available all the time.
- Go to [MNABAE-distancelearning.org](https://mnabae-distancelearning.org)

# Recording Student Attendance

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- All ABE consortia must be able to verify the accuracy of daily student contact hours reported to MDE
- Program staff are responsible for recording accurate student attendance
- Attendance should be recorded daily.

# National Reporting Service-- Performance data

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- Outcome-based reporting system for the state-administered, federally funded adult education program
- Defines the accountability requirements as stated by the US Dept. of Education
- Six levels for ESL and Basic Skills(ABE)

# Student Levels defined by NRS Educational Functioning Levels(EFLs)

ESL	ABE/Basic Skills
ESL 1: Beginning ESL Literacy	ABE 1: Beginning ABE Literacy
ESL 2: Low Beginning	ABE 2: Beginning Basic Education
ESL 3: High Beginning	ABE 3: Low Intermediate
ESL 4: Low Intermediate	ABE 4: High Intermediate
ESL 5: High Intermediate	ABE 5 Low Adult Secondary
ESL 6: Advanced	ABE 6: High Adult Secondary

Most EFLs are about two grade levels

# NRS Level Gains

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Education achievement:

- Achieving a score that falls within a higher NRS level on an approved assessment:
  - CASAS
  - TABE
  - BestPlus
- We utilize all three in Metro North
- Different levels of test -- locator to determine which to give
- Lengthy
- Now available for on-line testing (with caveats)

# Pre/Post testing

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- Pre-testing usually must be within the first 12 contact hours with the ABE program -- being waived during Covid
- Cannot be done until 40 contact hours
- One month between at least
- Pre/post testing is not required currently under Covid
- Online off site testing is difficult and time consuming and inefficient
- Read Theory and RLI can be used for placement in classes
- Some in person testing being done

# Enrollee vs. Participant

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- NRS differentiates between enrollee and participant
- Enrollee: any student with contact hours
- Participant: 12 contact hours or more
- Program year May-April (usually)
  - Covid change: March 14-March 13 last year and this year

# Funding

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Attendance and retention are tied to funding (usually)

Performance is not tied to funding



# Impact of Performance on programs

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- Annual Report Card
  - Program Improvement Plan
- 5 Year Narrative report/application for continued funding
- Federal Reconnect