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ABE LICENSE UPDATE

ABE TEACHER'S LICENSE BECOMES AVAILABLE October 1, 2001

After 20 plus years of debate and almost two and half years of intensive development work, on October 1, 2001, the Office of Teacher Licensure at the Massachusetts Department of Education will begin offering a **voluntary** license for Adult Basic Education (ABE) teachers.

Requirements for the license depend upon years of ABE teaching experience, or Massachusetts teacher's license held. A Route to Licensure chart is available on our web-site at www.doe.mass.edu/acls/certification.html

Applications are \$100 for first time Massachusetts teacher applicants and \$25 for anyone who has previously applied for a Massachusetts teacher's license. In October, please watch our web-site for more information on how to obtain an application.

Under the ABE licensure regulations, there

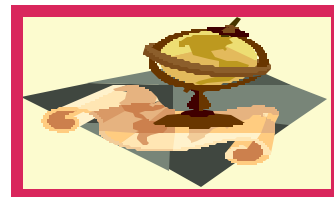
are two avenues through which new or experienced teachers may become licensed: a Department approved ABE teacher preparation program **or** an ABE Review Panel offered by the Department.

While there are currently no approved teacher preparation programs for ABE, several colleges have expressed interest. Additionally, several more agencies have expressed interest in offering professional development to support the license. We have encouraged these organizations to post their offerings on the Department's Professional Development **PDP Portfolio** on which you can search by topic area at <http://pdp.doe.mass.edu/pdp/> When programs become approved, we will make that information available.

In the short-term, the ABE Review Panel is the only way candi-

dates may become licensed. The Review Panel will consist of experienced ABE teachers and administrators, and staff from approved ABE teacher preparation programs. Licensure candidates will develop performance portfolios in which they demonstrate competence in any professional standards they have not fulfilled through coursework.

The Review Panel will be ready to review their first performance portfolios early next year. In the meantime, in an effort to provide the most credible review process we can, we're developing a training and norming process for these panels to help ensure consistency between panels and reviews.



The ABE Teacher's License Update is published by the MDOE (Massachusetts Department of Education) in coordination with SABES (System for Adult Basic Education Support) in an effort to keep practitioners and interested parties apprised of the status of the ABE Teacher's License. This Update, past issues, and other relevant documents are posted on the following web-sites:

www.doe.mass.edu/acls

www.sabes.org.

We're on the Web!
www.doe.mass.edu
or
www.sabes.org

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IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:
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617-482-9485 or
CReid@worlded.org

SABES DEVELOPING RESOURCE LISTS

The new ABE license regulations allow teachers to demonstrate proficiency in a set of professional standards. License-seeking teachers will have a variety of ways to meet the teacher's standards or to indicate if they have already met them. To support license-seeking teachers, SABES is developing lists of resources *by standard*. For the past few months, practitioners have been submitting the titles of books, articles, CDs, and videos, as well as web-site addresses, to the SABES CRC in a resource list-building process. Most entries will be annotated, to help potential users make choices that best fit their needs. This effort was recently capped (on 8/20) by an all-day "Resource-a-thon," in which a dozen veteran teachers and staff development specialists submitted scores of additional entries to a team of data collectors.

CRC staff and RSC librarians are now refining the lists in several ways. For one, they want to identify the "Ten Best" resources for each standard; for another, they will indicate for each book, article, or video if that monograph is located in an RSC library, a community college, or a local public library, and which resources can be downloaded from a web-site. The mission is to help connect license-seeking teachers to resources as quickly and as easily as possible.

From the Department

Please stop by one of the following conferences for more information on the ABE Teacher's License. See you there!

- ⇒ **The ABE Director's Meeting on October 4th and 5th**, we will be handing out materials and conducting both a morning and an afternoon question and answer session on the Teacher's License;
- ⇒ **The MATSOL Conference on October 13th at 12:45 p.m.**, we will be participating in a discussion panel on the Teacher's License and the work of the ABE Licensure Work Group; and
- ⇒ **The Network Conference on October 25th at 8:45 a.m.**, we will be handing out materials and conducting a question and answer session on the Teacher's License.

LICENSE-SEEKING ABE TEACHERS WANTED FOR SABES FIELD TEST

The SABES Field Test Planning Group (FTPG), composed of five teachers and several SABES staff members from across the five regions, has been working through the summer to develop a process for helping license-seeking teachers to prepare for the new ABE teacher's license, which will be rolled out in October 2001. (See last month's License Update for a description of the FTPG and its work.) The support model will be field tested beginning in October and continue through June 2002.

For the field test, SABES will be working with a total of

twenty-five license-seeking teachers to determine what sorts of support license-seeking teachers need and how SABES can best provide it. These efforts will be coordinated with the publication of DOE guidelines, as they are published. The teachers will work in five-member groups, one group per region. Each teacher will receive a stipend of \$500 for successfully contributing to and completing the field test.

Recruitment begins now, with a tentative deadline for applications set for October 15, 2001. If you are an ABE teacher who has five or more years of ABE teaching experience, is highly motivated to obtain

the ABE license, and is willing to travel once-a-month to a central meeting point in your region, please call or email your RSC contact person for an application:

Western SABES: Pat Mew, 413-552-2393 or pmew@hcc.mass.edu;
NE SABES: Janet Fischer, 978-738-7307 or janet_sabes@yahoo.com;
SE SABES: Annemarie Espindola, 508-678-2811 (x2782) or aespindola@bristol.mass.edu;
ALRI (Boston): Maria E. Gonzalez, 617-782-8956 (x15) or maria@alri.org;
Central SABES: Joanne Harrington, 508-854-4476 or joanneh@qcc.mass.edu.