



# The Department Awards the First ABE Teacher's License!

The Department is pleased to announce that the first ABE teacher's license (provisional level) has been awarded to Robert Allison of Newburyport.

Bob, like many ABE teachers, has had a varied career ranging from documenting human rights violations, directing programs for the aged, and working at the National Bureau of Economic Research for over 15 years, 10 of which were as Director of Research Management. Bob holds degrees from Yale and Northeastern and is a candidate for the Graduate Certificate in Forensic Services at UMass Boston.

In January, Bob will begin a new job as the librarian at the Essex County Correctional Facility in Middleton, and, if time permits, he would like to do some ABE teaching under the supervision of licensed staff.

Since Bob has no ABE teaching experience, he had two options in applying for the ABE license. He could have applied for the professional license under Route 1, or, as he did, he applied for the provisional ABE license. In order to qualify for the provisional license, Bob needed to have a bachelor's degree and to pass the Communication and Literacy Skills portion of the

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL). Bob suggests that "applicants not be afraid of [the exam] but also treat it seriously. Studying the standard rules of English grammar is an important preparation and the sample questions that come with the test application are very helpful."

Having met the requirements for the provisional license, Bob now has 5 years to fulfill the requirements for the professional ABE license. When he is ready to apply for the professional license, he will need to complete another application and submit it with a \$25 fee to the Department. He will also need proof of having met the requirements for whichever route he qualifies to pursue. (For more information on the routes to licensure, see the summary provided in the application package at [www.doe.mass.edu/cert](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cert).)

Bob, congratulations on being the first licensed ABE teacher in Massachusetts!

Since October 1, the Department has received a number of applications for the new license. Applicants have been both novices seeking their first teacher's license in Massachusetts and experienced ABE teachers.

## ABE Pilot Courses

During the winter and spring of 2002, SABES will be hosting the final four pilot courses that are compatible with the ABE teacher's license. The pilots are tentatively set as follows:

### **"Reading/Writing (4-8 GLE)"**

Presented by:  
Sylvia Greene, Karen Ebbitt,  
and Sally Gabb  
Southeast SABES  
March 2—April 13

### **"Multicultural Education in ABE"**

Presented by:  
Marilyn Montiero and  
Judy Titzel  
Central SABES  
April 27th—June 8th

### **"Reading/Writing (9-12 GLE)"**

Presented by:  
Deb Helsing and  
co-presenter TBA  
Western SABES  
Late winter/early spring

### **"Adult Human Development"**

Presented by:  
Diane Goss and Barbara  
Macaulay  
Boston, ALRI  
Late winter/early spring

Participants who successfully complete a pilot course will receive 45 PDPs and will be paid a \$300 stipend for an extensive written evaluation.

*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](http://www.doe.mass.edu/acls) or [www.sabes.org](http://www.sabes.org).*

**We're on the Web!**

[www.doe.mass.edu/cert](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cert)  
or  
[www.sabes.org/license](http://www.sabes.org/license)

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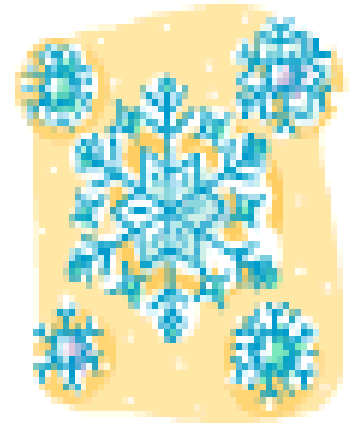
*IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:*

Mary Jayne Fay,  
ABE Licensure Specialist, at  
[MJFay@doe.mass.edu](mailto:MJFay@doe.mass.edu)

Carey Reid, SABES Staff  
Development Specialist, at  
617-482-9485 or  
[CReid@worlded.org](mailto:CReid@worlded.org)

## SABES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION SESSIONS ON LICENSURE SUPPORT

Carey Reid from the SABES Central Resource Center will be hosting information sessions, at least one in each region, from January through March, 2002 on the SABES Licensure Support System. Topics will include basic information and important links, SABES's support system for license-seeking teachers, and a run-through of the new licensure support website at [www.sabes.org/license](http://www.sabes.org/license). SABES regional staff members and practitioners who are involved in the current field testing of the SABES licensure support process will be on hand to help. Dates and times are being set now, so please contact your regional office for more information.



### Worcester Adult Basic Educators

John McGovern, from the Worcester Adult Learning Center, and former ABE Advisory Committee member is pleased to announce that the Worcester adult education system will accept, but not require, the new ABE teacher's license. Worcester adult basic educators are required to hold a Massachusetts teacher's license in order to teach adult basic education and ESOL for adults. This announcement means that teachers can now use the new ABE license to teach ABE/ESOL for adults in the Worcester LEAs.

## INFORMATION ON CHAPTER 51A REPORTING

If you've completed an application for the ABE license or are thinking about it, you'll note that you'll be required to check off an affidavit that says you have read and understand the Chapter 51A statute, which requires all Massachusetts teachers to be mandated reporters of abuse and neglect of children under the age of 18. While not all ABE teachers work in programs where they come into contact with minors, some do (i.e., family literacy, correctional facilities, workplace education).

"Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 119, Section 51A, a mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to believe that a child the age of eighteen years is

suffering physical or under emotional injury resulting from abuse, including sexual abuse, or from neglect, shall immediately report such condition to DSS..." The mandated reporter must make the report orally to DSS immediately and then make a written report to DSS within 48 hours. Reports can be telephoned to the local DSS area office. In addition, there is a state-wide DSS Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting Line, 1-800-KIDS-508. After 5 p.m. and on weekends, calls should go to the Child-At-Risk Hotline at 1-800-972-5200.

M.G.L. c 119, Chapter 51A states that any person who is legally required to report suspected child abuse or neglect (i.e., is a mandated reporter), but who fails to do so is sub-

ject to a criminal fine of up to \$1,000. The statute also specifies that a mandated reporter who makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect in good faith is immune from liability in any criminal or civil action filed in connection with the report.

A copy of the statute may also be downloaded from the Department's web-site at [www.doe.mass.edu/cert](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cert). If you would like more information, please contact the Department at 781-338-3854 to request a 51A information packet.

**Applications** for the ABE teacher's license are available on the Department's web-site at [www.doe.mass.edu/cert](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cert) or by calling 781-338-6600 and requesting an application packet.