

Update on the ABE Teacher's License



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THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SABES

ABE LICENSE UPDATE

To date, the Department has received 35 applications for the professional ABE license and 1 application for the provisional license (which has been awarded). Additionally, the Department has received hundreds of phone calls and emails, from across the state and the nation requesting information about the new license. Given the recent budget crises, the holidays, and the fact that guidelines have not yet been approved, we are very pleased with the number of applications and inquiries received.

As many of you know, over the last year a dedicated team of work group members have been diligently working on the guidelines that will support the regulations for the license. Thanks to their tireless efforts, meeting one or more times a month in addition to "conferencing" on-line in between meetings, we have drafted guidelines

for program approval for teacher preparation programs and guidelines for the ABE Review Panel, which includes a technical manual for use by practitioners seeking the license.

In an effort to make the licensure process a smooth one, both for applicants and institutions seeking to develop ABE teacher preparation programs, the guidelines provide an outline of the criteria necessary to meet the regulations (complete with examples and what documentation is appropriate to show evidence of having met the criteria). The guidelines also provide any necessary forms to be completed by candidates or preparation programs.

Once we receive approval from the Department's senior staff, legal department, and the Commissioner, (we expect approval to happen very soon), we will invite a cross-section of the

current pool of applicants to test the guidelines as drafted.

These test cases will prepare performance portfolios to be submitted to the first-ever ABE review panels. The Department will then use the information learned from these test cases and review panels to improve the guidelines and the review panel training process.

We greatly appreciate the patience and understanding of the early applicants and their willingness to give us feedback along the way.

We are all looking forward to implementing the best possible model for this license and making it a credible model we can all be proud of.

Please do not hesitate to call the Department if you have any questions.



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/certification.html or www.sabes.org/license

Applications for the ABE teacher's license are available on the Department's web-site at: www.doe.mass.edu/cert or by calling 781-338-3000 and requesting an application packet.



SEEKING ABE REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

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

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IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
OR COMMENTS, PLEASE
CONTACT:

Mary Jayne Fay,
ABE Licensure Specialist, at
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Carey Reid, SABES Staff
Development Specialist, at
617-482-9485 or
CReid@worlded.org

Nomination forms for the first ever ABE Review Panels are being accepted until April 1st. If you would like to be trained to evaluate teacher performance portfolios and demonstrations of teaching, please complete a nomination form and submit it to the Department. The training will occur June 20-22, 2002. Successful completion of the training is necessary for participation in the review panels.

We hope to offer licensure applicants the opportunity to be reviewed by a review panel in their region. If we have a sufficient number of review panel nominations, who have the appropriate credentials, the Department will be happy to run review panels in each region of the state. If you, or someone you know would be an excellent candidate, please encourage them to complete a nomination form.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the ACLS web-site at www.doe.mass.edu/acls/certification.html or may be requested by calling the Department at 781-338-3854. There is a nominal stipend for the training.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email Mary Jayne Fay at the Department.

"Multicultural Education in ABE" Pilot Course

The last of the ABE pilot courses that is compatible with the ABE teacher's license is still accepting applications.

Location: Central SABES, Monk's Room, 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m., April 27—June 8

Presented by: Marilyn Monteiro and Judy Titzel

Contact: Joanne Harrington, 508-854-4476 or joanneh@qcc.mass.edu for an application form & additional info.

County House Of Corrections Education Conference 2002

Fully half of the applications received by the Department have been from CHOC or DOC (Department of Corrections) teachers!

Due to the high demand for information about the new ABE teacher's license by ABE educators in correctional facilities, on March 20th, Bill Toller, Dottie Dunford, and Mary Jayne Fay will be co-presenting **two** workshops at the CHOC Education Confer-

ence.

In each presentation, Bill will discuss licensure requirements for CHOC teachers; Mary Jayne will present information on the requirements for the new ABE teacher's license; and Dottie will present information on how CHOC teachers can apply for the license. There will be plenty of opportunity for Q & A and applications and related materials will be distributed.

Presenters:

Bill Toller, Assistant Superintendent, Hampden County Sheriff's Department (co-developed a pilot course for the teacher's license);

Dottie Dunford, Director of Education, Suffolk County House of Correction (a current work group member); and

Mary Jayne Fay, ABE Licensure Specialist, MDOE (coordinator of the development and implementation of the license at the Department).