

# ABE SUBJECT MATTER TEST First Administration 11/20/04



## ABE LICENSE UPDATE

The first administration of the Commonwealth's Adult Basic Education subject matter test will be November 20th. The test is the first in the country to test the breadth and depth of candidates' knowledge in the content areas that ABE teachers need to know. As part of the test's development, a panel of ABE practitioners spent the last year reviewing the test objectives and drafted test items. We would like to thank the panel members for their participation and for lending their content-area expertise toward finalizing the test items.

The test consists of 100 multiple-choice items and two open-response items that typically require responses in essay or problem-solving form. Test content areas include:

- English language arts
- English for speakers of other languages
- Mathematics
- History and social science
- Science

Beginning November 20, 2004 ABE candidates seeking a provisional license **and** those who qualify for Route 1 to the professional license must achieve a passing score on both the Communication and Literacy Skills and the ABE subject matter tests. Please note that applicants who apply on or after November 20th will be required to take the test (all provisional and Route 1 applicants). If applicants apply prior to the first administration of the subject matter test, they will not be required to take the test; however, all applicants for the provisional license and Route 1 for the professional license must still achieve a passing score on the ComLit test.

Please note that beginning October 1, 2006 **all** candidates for either the provisional or the professional license, regardless of years of ABE teaching experience and route to licensure, will be required to pass both the ComLit and the ABE subject matter tests.

For information on the test's development, test objectives, test preparation guide, and information on how to register for the test, please log on to the web-site for the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel>. MTEL tests are administered at locations across the state approximately five times per year.

We'd like to take this opportunity to also thank those involved in the piloting of the test items over the summer: the 100+ practitioners who voluntarily took a test during summer vacation(!); SABES Regional Support Centers, who hosted the pilot tests; and the following publishers for providing gift certificates for pilot participants: Houghton Mifflin/Great Source Education Group, Heinle & Heinle, Contemporary Books, Alran Books, Whitcomb Associates, and Academic Book Services, Inc.

If you were unable to participate in this summer's pilot tests and would still like to, it may not be too late. More test items will be piloted over the next several months. Please watch the Department's web-site for more information.



*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/educators/abe.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/abe.html) or [www.sabes.org/license](http://www.sabes.org/license)*

**Applications** for the ABE Teacher's License are available on the Department's web-site at: [www.doe.mass.edu/educators/abe.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/abe.html) or by calling 781-338-3000 and requesting an application packet.

## SABES TO WORK WITH COHORTS OF LICENSE-SEEKING TEACHERS

We're on the Web!  
[www.doe.mass.edu/educators/abe.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/abe.html)  
or  
[www.sabes.org/license](http://www.sabes.org/license)

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*IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS  
OR COMMENTS, PLEASE  
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Carey Reid, SABES Staff  
Development Specialist, at  
617-482-9485 or  
[CReid@worlded.org](mailto:CReid@worlded.org)

Based on a two-year field test, SABES has determined that one of the most effective ways of supporting license-seeking teachers is to organize groups of 7-10 teachers who then work together to build performance portfolios in real time. Our teachers have busy lives with many time commitments to job, family, and community; setting aside 3-4 hours per month to work in computer labs to write and share drafts works best for these individuals. For the past year, SABES has worked with three cohorts spaced throughout the state, using the computer labs of host programs. The groups meet on a schedule that the members determine.

SABES is now recruiting for interested teachers to form cohorts starting in September 2004. At this time, the groups' membership will be limited to teachers who have amassed at least 2400 hours of classroom contact time. Interested individuals should contact Carey Reid, SABES Staff Developer for Licensure and Assessment, at [creid@worlded.org](mailto:creid@worlded.org). If you have fewer than 2400 hours but have questions regarding SABES support for teachers interested in obtaining either the provisional or professional license, Carey would be glad to speak with you at 617-482-9485.

The **Massachusetts Department of Corrections** has reviewed the criteria for the Adult Basic Education Teacher's License and has approved it for use in determining criteria appropriate for hiring ABE teachers.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW ABE LICENSEES!!

**Professional** license awarded: Carey Reid, Claudette P. Murray  
**Provisional** license awarded: Sharon A. McLaughlin

## NETWORK 2004 PRESENTATION

### How to Assemble a Performance Portfolio for the ABE Teacher's License

At the Network conference this fall, the Department will provide a session on assembling performance portfolios for the professional level of the ABE Teacher's License. The session will be targeted toward those who have applied for the Adult Basic Education Teacher's License, who are assembling their performance portfolio, and who have questions or need clarification about the process. After a brief overview of the portfolio process, a panel of teachers will discuss their experiences compiling the portfolio for the professional level of the license. Due to time

limitations, it will not be possible to review individual portfolios; however, examples will be provided, reviewed, and discussed. Additionally, panel members will discuss their experiences with the in-person teaching demonstration option, also known as the mock teaching demonstration.

Please visit our web-site [http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/e\\_license.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/e_license.html) for *Frequently Asked Questions* and *Guidelines for the ABE Teachers' License*.