New ABLE Administrators’ Training

The New ABLE Administrators’ Meeting has been set for **Thursday, October 1, 2009**, at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus. Registration begins at 9:00 am; the meeting will start promptly at 9:30. This full-day meeting is **required for all new** ABLE administrators and coordinators who have been hired in these positions in the last year. Any ABLE administrators who would like to attend are welcome.

The goals of the meeting are to review and discuss key grant administrative and management issues. These issues include: 1) using the ABLE grant as a business planning tool, 2) understanding fiscal requirements, 3) monitoring the grant, 4) addressing professional development and 5) completing other required reports. Another advantage of attending this meeting is to network with other administrators.

Please contact Jeff Gove at jgove@regents.state.oh.us by September 17th if you are planning to attend. After you are registered, you will receive additional information as to how to prepare for this important meeting.

FY 2008 Desk Review Results

This is the fifth year of the Desk Review since its pilot in FY 2003. The Desk Review rates local programs on two (2) performance measures. The first measure, representing 67% of the overall rating, is student achievement. The second measure, representing 33% of the overall rating, is administrative requirements. The following chart shows the overall state ratings for Fiscal Years 2006-2008.
Forty (40) of 116 ABLE programs received an Exemplary rating on their FY 2008 Desk Review. In addition, 87.9% of the programs received a rating of Acceptable or higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>FY 2008 Number of Programs</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>FY 2007 Number of Programs</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>FY 2006 Number of Programs</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exemplary</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34.48%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25.42%</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>56.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34.48%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22.03%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>22.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18.97%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23.73%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Acceptable</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12.07%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28.81%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Programs</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart below indicates the number of programs in each region for each category. This is provided for you to use in analyzing your own results.

Congratulations to all programs for accepting the commitment to continuous improvement.
STAR Reading Program Offered to Ohio ABLE Programs

Ohio ABLE has been involved in the Student Achievement in Reading (STAR) national initiative since 2004. STAR is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE). Through professional development and ongoing technical assistance, ABLE teachers learn to effectively incorporate evidence-based approaches into their reading instruction. STAR focuses on ABLE students whose reading achievement falls into the intermediate range—Educational Functioning Levels of 3 and 4. Through FY 2009, 15 ABLE programs across Ohio have participated in STAR.

For FY 2010, the Southwest Resource Center is pleased to offer STAR training and technical assistance to two ABLE programs. The participating programs will receive six days of STAR training, resources, monthly conference calls, program site visits, and teacher classroom visits. To participate in STAR, programs will need teams composed of one administrator and at least two teachers. All participants must attend all training days.

To learn more about STAR, see the attached STAR Guide which outlines the requirements and financial compensation available to participating programs. For further information, please contact Lynn Reese at the Southwest Resource Center (800-558-5374 or lynn.reese@sinclair.edu) or Karen Scheid, (614-466-5015 or kscheid@regents.state.oh.us). The deadline for consideration as a new STAR program in FY 2010 is August 28th. The selection of the two programs will take place in September. The first training will be held November 5-6.

Ohio GED Changes

These economic times have presented many challenges for state and local governments including GED testing centers and fee waiver sites. To reconcile the new biennium budget, the Ohio Department of Education will increase GED transcript fees, increase the passing scores of GED practice tests, and change Ohio’s GED fee waiver policy.

Effective September 1, 2009:

- The transcript fee will be increased from $5 to $10.
- The priority processing fee for a transcript will be increased from $10 to $15. (Requests must be postmarked by August 31, 2009, to be processed under the current $10 fee.)
- Passing practice test scores will be increased to 450, with only one test score permitted between 410 and 450. (This should increase the likelihood of passage on the actual GED test.)
- Only one fee waiver may be earned per year by new students who enroll in any GED practice program and take the complete practice test. (This change to GED policy is in accordance with a recent change in law by the Ohio legislature.)
Individuals requesting priority processing of transcripts (one business day by fax and standard United States Postal Service mail) should continue to write PRIORITY PROCESSING on the front of the envelope and include a Money Order or Business Check only, payable to OHIO TESTING SERVICES. Each student’s transcript must be paid separately; the fee continues to be NON-REFUNDABLE.

Individuals who have taken the official GED test in calendar year 2009 with a fee waiver but did not pass, may earn one additional fee waiver through the end of the calendar year.

Effective January 1, 2010, applicants may receive only one fee waiver each calendar year.

Please note: Changes to the fee waiver structure and fees for applications, transcripts and diplomas are subject to change at any time.

For more information about these changes, please contact the Ohio Department of Education State GED Office at 614-466-1577 and/or ged@ode.state.oh.us. Thank you.

CASAS Tests

Effective June 30, 2009, CASAS will no longer provide or support the old Life Skills reading series. Ohio ABLE programs that are using these reading tests will have one year to transition to the new Life and Work reading series. If you have any questions, contact Donna Albanese at dalbanese@regents.state.oh.us or 614-466-6204.

FY 2010 Version of OPAS Manual Available

The FY 2010 version of the OPAS Manual is posted at the University System of Ohio ABLE web area. (See below.) The main modifications from the FY 2009 version involve changes in the Assessment section and the Student Forms, which appear in the Registration, Monitoring and Exiting sections.
PD Policy Coming

The State Leadership Network has been working on improving our PD system. For example, next month ABLE staff will have access to a new online New Staff Orientation. Next week you will be receiving a FY 2010 Professional Development Policy and PD Planning Guide that includes a Staff Self-Assessment, Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP), and Program Professional Development Plan (PPDP). Throughout this program year, the State ABLE Program will be asking for your input as we continue program improvement efforts within the PD system.

Multiple Formats for the Revised ABE/ASE Content Standards

In July, the State ABLE Program released Ohio’s revised content standards for ABE/ASE. Now the standards are available on the ABLE website in the following formats:

Standards and Introduction Version - This format includes the introduction to the standards and all the standards and benchmarks arranged by level. Be sure to download this updated copy (dated July 2009).

Oversized Version - In this format each standard is presented in a table with benchmarks arranged by strands to show progression across levels. The sections of the standard are color-coded. Note that this version prints on 11 x 17 paper.

Desktop Version - This format mimics the oversized version on 8 ½ x 11 paper. Here, benchmarks are presented in a table and arranged by strands. When the pages are printed, the first two side by side recreate the first section of benchmarks, levels 1-6. This pattern repeats for subsequent pages.

Look for these document formats in the Standards and Benchmarks section at the bottom of the following webpage: http://uso.edu/network/workforce/able/reference.php.

Quote of the Week

“The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.”
- William Howard