

Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE)

Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) includes instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies and English as a Second Language and other skills required for attaining employment, or entering post secondary education. ABLE serves approximately 200 adults in the Montana State Prison system, 1,500 individuals between 16-18 years of age and 4,500 adults.

The Adult Basic and Literacy Education Program:

- Developed a performance-based funding model that aligns the components of a funding formula with state funding priorities.
- Worked with the Montana Department of Labor and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to develop the PEP Talk Process, which is a common intake activity that assists each student/client in the development of a personal employment plan that can seamlessly transition between agencies.
- Wrote ABLE content standards to clearly define what an adult student needs to know and be able to do in order to pass the GED, a postsecondary entrance exam or be workforce-ready.
- Implemented GED Online to provide instruction to students who are not able to attend classroom instruction during scheduled hours or who live a long distance from service providers.
- Is working with Flathead Valley Community College to develop a contextualized learning model that integrates career training in the ABLE classroom.
- Is developing a data initiative entitled: *Diving Deep into the National Reporting System (NRS) Local Pool; Attendance, Education Gain, and Transition Outcomes.*
- Manages and monitors program adherence to the requirements of the Adult Family and Literacy Act.
- Collects data on student attendance and pre-post test gains.
- Oversees sub-grants for 20 programs and 36 satellite programs across Montana.

Sub grantees provide:

- Basic education skills development in literacy, math, etc. (skills to grade level equivalency 12.9) with an average of 260,000 of classroom hours provided/year.
- GED preparation with approximately 900 adults obtaining their GED per year.
- Instruction on employment readiness by integrating lessons on use of technology, soft skills, resume writing, and specific requests by employers/students.
- English as a Second Language instruction to approximately 200 adults each year.
- College preparation with application assistance and prep for postsecondary entrance exams.
- Employment retention by providing instruction in skill areas requested by an employer or helping students prepare for employment advancements.