



Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

ADULT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY FACTS

FROM JEFF GOVE, ACTING STATE ABLE DIRECTOR
ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION

October 16, 2009

Jeff Gove, Acting State ABLE Director

Jeff Gove has been named as the Acting State ABLE Director. Jeff joined the State ABLE program team in 1992 as a State ABLE JOBS Coordinator and then moved into the role as an ABLE Regional Consultant. In his new role Jeff will continue to work to provide educational opportunities to adults around the state.

Please join the State ABLE Team in Congratulating Jeff in his new role.



Upcoming State ABLE Program Review

The Ohio Board of Regents' Chancellor Eric Fingerhut has requested that a consultant group undertake a review of Ohio's ABLE system. A team of four consultants is reviewing major components of the ABLE system to determine current conditions and make recommendations to ensure it remains efficient and effective.

The Ohio Board of Regents' ultimate goal is to ensure that Ohio ABLE students can engage in a systemic process where they can acquire needed basic skills, complete their GED, and easily transition into higher levels of learning and sustainable employment. Chancellor Fingerhut and the State ABLE Program are looking for ways to support local program staff as they continue providing quality instruction for Ohio's ABLE students.

An overview of this review, including the proposed timeline, is attached. More information about this review will be forthcoming as it progresses.

FY 2009 ABLÉ Carryover Funds for FY 2010

In the past, ABLÉ programs with unexpended funds available at the end of a fiscal year were approved to “carry over” these funds to the next fiscal year. This approval was provided only after the completion and submission of the Final Expenditure Report (FER). The competitive FY 2010 ABLÉ grant has created a challenge to this process. There are two cases that can occur:

- FY 2009 ABLÉ programs (fiscal agents) that did not receive FY 2010 approval and had unexpended funds will be required to return the funds to the Ohio Board of Regents State ABLÉ Program.
- FY 2009 ABLÉ programs (fiscal agents) that are approved as part of an FY 2010 consortium identified under a different fiscal agent and have unexpended FY 2009 funds will have these funds assigned to the consortium’s FY 2010 allocation.

The State ABLÉ Program in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education is reviewing the system to determine a revised fiscal and CCIP process that will support the carryover policy above. However, we cannot initiate the new process until all FY 2009 ABLÉ project FERs are completed AND the revised process is in to support the transfer and approval of these funds. All programs will be kept informed of our progress. If you have questions about this, please contact your regional State ABLÉ Program Staff. Thank you.

Student Outcome of Placement in Postsecondary Education or Training

The State ABLÉ Program wants to remind ABLÉ programs that they may count students who have achieved the outcome of placement in postsecondary education or training *outside* of Ohio borders. This needs to be entered into ABLELink, verified by use of the OPAS Follow-Up Survey for this outcome, and kept in the student Administrative File. For further clarification, contact your regional State ABLÉ staff. Thank you.

Fall ABLÉ Directors' Meeting

The Fall ABLÉ Directors' Meeting, held on November 9th and 10th at the Columbus Marriott Northwest, is focusing on Educational Leadership. The first day includes a keynote address by Dr. Cristine Smith with breakout sessions by the Resource Center Network and local ABLÉ program practitioners. The second day consists of breakout sessions and the annual Retirement Recognition Luncheon. The registration fee for this conference is \$135.00 which includes breakfast and lunch on both days. To register, go online at

http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/rcn/calendar_detail.cfm?ItemsID=1607

Please note: This is a two-day meeting. Administrators are expected to attend both days **to get credit on the Desk Review**. Other staff members are welcome to attend. Remember everyone in attendance must register and pay the full registration cost, even if attending only one day.

New ABLE Administrators' Orientation

On October 1, 2009, the New ABLE Administrators' Orientation was conducted at the State of Ohio Library in Columbus. The group consisted of administrators from across the state. When you see these new faces (and some returning), please welcome them to our ABLE family.



Are you looking for a second test to use in your verification of a Basic or Advanced Skills Certificate?

For those programs who have completed any CASAS training, even if the focus was ESOL, you can use CASAS in your ABE/ASE programs. For example, if you took the CASAS ESOL training and learned how to use the reading and listening assessments, you can purchase and use CASAS reading and math assessments. The reading tests are the same for ESOL and ABE students. The process for scoring and reporting is the same for all tests in the CASAS system.

The new reading tests are called *Life and Work*. The only math tests available are still the old *Life Skills* series. The new *Life and Work* math will not be available until next year. Ohio does not use the CASAS writing test, so you would need to use another test for verifying writing skills for the Stackable Certificates.

Technology Initiative

As we indicated in the last issue of Friday Facts, we will add answers to questions that we receive related to the Technology Initiative. Attached to this Friday Facts is the second set of such questions reflecting inquiries that have been communicated to our office.

Questions from the Field

Q: Do students have to give their Social Security number to attend ABLE?

A: Students are not required to give Social Security numbers to attend ABLE classes, but not having this data will affect your program's follow-up outcomes. The employment and postsecondary goals, that we are required to report to the USDOE, are matched using the Social Security numbers. Without all the Social Security numbers, the program will not receive complete credit for the students' achievement of employment goals which are important measures on the Desk Review. Student Postsecondary education goals can still be documented using the OPAS survey form for this outcome.

How local program staff approach the subject of Social Security numbers with students is very important. At orientation, when completing the student forms, it is important to explain to the students the purpose for including the Social Security number on the form. In addition, the local program staff must assure students that this confidential information and all forms with Social Security numbers are kept in a

locked file. Students should also be asked to sign a Release of Information Form (RIF) after an appropriate explanation of it.

Q: Why can an 18- year old, not enrolled in school, attend ABLE but cannot take the official GED test?

A: The national GED Testing Service determines the rules for GED testing. To take the Ohio GED test, students must be officially withdrawn from school and be 19 years of age or older. Exceptions to the age requirements are posted on the GED website, www.ode.state.oh.us > School Options > GED.

The rules for who can attend ABLE programs are written in the legislation, WIA Title II, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio ABLE Student Eligibility Policy. AEFLA identifies a qualifying adult as someone "beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area." In Ohio, compulsory education is for students "between six and eighteen years of age." Therefore, the exceptions to the Ohio ABLE eligibility requirements only pertain to students aged 16 and 17. Please refer to the Student Eligibility Policy on the ABLE website at:

<http://uso.edu/network/workforce/able/reference.php> > Policies

Notes:

ABLE Calendar – The ABLE Calendar has been undated on the ABLE web site. Please use the revised calendar for reference n when items are due.

Quote of the Week

“Change is a measure of time and, in the autumn, time seems speeded up. What was not and never again will be; what is change.”

- Edwin Way Teale



Review of Ohio's ABLE System

October 15, 2009

- Sponsored by:** Ohio Board of Regents
- Consultants:** Dr. Barbara Endel, Linda Stacy, Dr. Karen Wheeler, and Christopher Spence
- Purpose:** Based on a request from Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) Chancellor Eric Fingerhut, a consultant group will be undertaking a review of Ohio's ABLE system. The consultants will review major components of the ABLE system to determine current conditions and make recommendations to ensure it is efficient and effective.
- OBR's ultimate goal is to ensure that Ohio ABLE participants can engage in a systemic process where they can acquire needed basic skills, complete their GED, and easily transition into higher levels of learning and sustainable employment. OBR and Chancellor Fingerhut are looking for ways to support local program staff as they continue providing quality instruction for Ohio's ABLE students.
- Expected Outcome:** The outcome will be a report with recommendations which will ensure that the ABLE system is on par with national best practices and meets the needs of our constituents in the 21st Century. The report will include a focus on Ohio's national and regional standing. We'll complete an internal review which will look at participant and system outcomes, NRS outcomes, integration components with AWE, delivery of professional development, data systems, and financial aspects.
- Parameters:** The review is taking into account:
- Ohio Board of Regents – 10-year Strategic Plan
 - The plans for the University System of Ohio
 - State ABLE Plan
 - Limited state and federal funds
 - Trends toward regional collaborative structures
 - State Requirements
- Review methodology:** The review will include interviews with: state ABLE staff, selected ABLE directors, instructors, employers, regional resource center staff, and other state agency staff. In addition, we will be examining budgets, services, structures, and other key components.
- Field expectations:** During the review process local sites will be asked to respond to a brief survey, and selected staff from the field will be asked to participate in focus group sessions, or phone interviews to capture and codify field input.

Timeline:

October 1 – December 31, 2009	
October 1-Nov. 30	Research phase. Comparative analysis of Ohio nationally and regionally. Internal data collected and analyzed.
Oct 1 – Nov 13	Stakeholder engagement phase – interviews with key informants - state agency staff, selected ABLE Directors, instructors, employers, and others
Nov 2-Nov. 13	ABLE survey released
Nov 9	Focus group interviews at State ABLE Directors Meeting, Columbus
Nov 16-Dec 27	Report developed
Dec 28	Report delivered to Ohio Board of Regents

ABLE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING INITIATIVE**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- 1. When I do the AdultEdOnline assessment I am asked, if I want to share my results. Should I say yes?**

We strongly encourage you to choose to share your results. If you do not indicate that your assessment results may be shared, the results will not be available to your program's Technology Point Person or for your program's technology report.

- 2. At the end of the AdultEdOnline assessment I am asked, if I want to develop a technology plan. Should I do that?**

While it is not a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a personal technology plan. The personal technology plan will be a good document for you to refer to as you pursue your technology training. You may modify the plan at any time to better reflect your current knowledge base as you add to your skill set.

- 3. Should support staff be included in the technology initiative?**

The initiative is targeted to instructional staff. However, any support staff member is welcome to take part, particularly those who utilize technology in performing their job.