



ABLE Evaluation and Design Project

Located within the Center on Education and Training for Employment, College of Education and Human Ecology of The Ohio State University, this grant-funded project has since 1995 provided leadership and coordination in activities of statewide significance to Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE). The ABLE Evaluation and Design Project assists in the development and implementation of a system that:

- Supports accountability at local, state and national levels and
- Enables local and state staff to plan and carry out program improvement and staff development activities.

Mission and Goals

The mission of the ABLE Evaluation and Design Project is to support the Ohio Adult Basic and Literacy Education system through evaluation, technical assistance and research activities which support the annual and strategic goals as defined in the Ohio ABLE State Plan.

The Project employs a process of continuous re-alignment to the State ABLE Office Strategic Plan goals and priorities to ensure that project activities align with those goals in the best interest of ABLE programs throughout Ohio. The Project fulfills its mission through the following objectives:

- To recommend policies and processes, including development, implementation and evaluation mechanisms, to ensure continuous improvement at local, regional and state levels of the ABLE system.
- To collaborate in and enhance ABLE state leadership through such technical assistance activities as data collection, information dissemination and task force or committee participation.
- To provide targeted reviews of evidence and practices to support the creation and implementation of products and processes for local and statewide ABLE programming.

Project staff members, in collaboration with the State ABLE Office, the State Leadership Network and local ABLE practitioners, are dedicated to designing, implementing and evaluating systems that enhance the capacity of adult and literacy education programs to provide quality services for individuals in their roles as family members, citizens and workers.

Activities

Staff members assist in the development and validation of **standards** and **assessment systems** for ABLE. Beginning with managing the development of academic content standards for literacy students and English speakers of other languages, staff members conduct validation studies, identify **promising program practices** and develop materials to assist in planning, teaching and learning. They investigate the feasibility of standardized and performance assessments and advise on **assessment policy**.

In addition, staff members collaborate in **transitions** work and assist in Ohio's **Stackable Certificate Initiative**, supporting adult students advancing to postsecondary education and/or employment.

Staff members examine processes and outcomes through **needs assessment**, surveys, site visits, focus groups and quantitative and qualitative **data analysis**. Working closely with the State ABLE Office, staff members develop and conduct **evaluation studies** to monitor the effectiveness of local ABLE programs, resource centers, literacy coalitions and state-level services.

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