

THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FOR ABE TEACHERS

Summary and Requirements by Route

- *Regulations for the Licensure of Adult Basic Education Teachers and Preparation Program Approval* were approved by the Board of Education on April 24, 2001 and went into effect October 1, 2001.
- The ABE Teacher's License is a voluntary license, by statute (M.G.L. c. 69, §1H) .
- One general license that covers a foundation of knowledge and skills in all areas of ABE covering the breadth of content, skills, and abilities needed by adult basic educators (e.g., English, including reading and writing; ESOL; and a general background in mathematics, history, science, and social sciences).
- There are two levels to licensure: provisional and professional.
- The provisional license, which is the entry level license, is valid for five years and is non-renewable. Teachers will need to have met the minimum educational requirement and passed the Communication and Literacy Skills Test and the ABE Subject Matter Test of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL).
- The professional license is valid for five years and is renewable every five years thereafter. Teachers will need to have met the minimum educational requirement and passed the Communication and Literacy Skills Test and the ABE Subject Matter Test of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL). The Professional license assumes that candidates have completed **all** requirements for licensure. Requirements for the professional license depend upon the route to licensure used. Please see the attached at-a-glance chart. [Note: It is not necessary to hold a provisional ABE license before applying for a professional ABE license.]
- There are **four** routes to the professional ABE Teacher's License. All routes to licensure include demonstrating proficiency in the professional standards for ABE teachers, which includes a performance assessment and a demonstration of teaching. Novice ABE teachers must participate in a pre-practicum and/or practicum, which may be fulfilled either pre-service or in-service. Two of the four routes to licensure are considered "streamlining" options for experienced ABE teachers through which certain criteria are considered "fulfilled" by virtue of their years of experience.
- The professional standards for ABE teachers have been designed specifically for teachers of adult basic education. As such, they are intended to be broad enough to allow for the variety of educational settings in which ABE takes place (family literacy, corrections, workplace education, etc.) and flexible enough to allow for growth and development in a continually changing field.
 - The ABE teacher's standards are in the areas of:
 - Understanding the Adult Learner,
 - Diversity and Equity,
 - Instructional Design and Teaching Approaches,
 - Facilitating the Adult Learning Environment,
 - Learner Assessment and Evaluation, and
 - Professionalism/Continuing Education.

REQUIREMENTS AT-A-GLANCE BY ROUTE TO THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FOR ABE TEACHERS*

ROUTES TO THE ABE TEACHER'S LICENSE	BACHELOR'S OR MASTER'S DEGREE	COMMUNICATION & LITERACY SKILLS TEST	SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE TEST**	75-HOUR PRE-PRACTICUM	15-HOUR FIELD SURVEY	150-HOUR PRACTICUM	PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS TO DEMONSTRATE	PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT & DEMONSTRATION OF TEACHING	18-HOUR ABE ORIENTATION
Route 1 Prospective or novice ABE teachers	✓	✓	✓	✓	within pre-practicum	✓	ALL (29 standards)	✓	✓
Route 2 Prospective or novice ABE teachers w/a preK-12 teacher's license	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	ALL (29 standards)	✓	✓
Route 3 ABE teachers w/1 year exp. (480 hours) plus a preK-12 teacher's license	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	21 (specified)	✓	N/A
Route 4 Teachers w/5+ years ABE teaching experience (2400 hours)	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	8 (specified)	✓	N/A

*By statute, this license cannot be required by the Department of Education.