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University System of Ohio

## ADULT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

# FRIDAY FACTS

**FROM DENISE L. POTTMEYER, STATE DIRECTOR  
ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION**

August 7, 2009

### **New ABLÉ Administrators' Training**

The New ABLÉ 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** ABLÉ administrators and coordinators who have been hired in these positions in the last year. Any ABLÉ 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 ABLÉ 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](mailto: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.

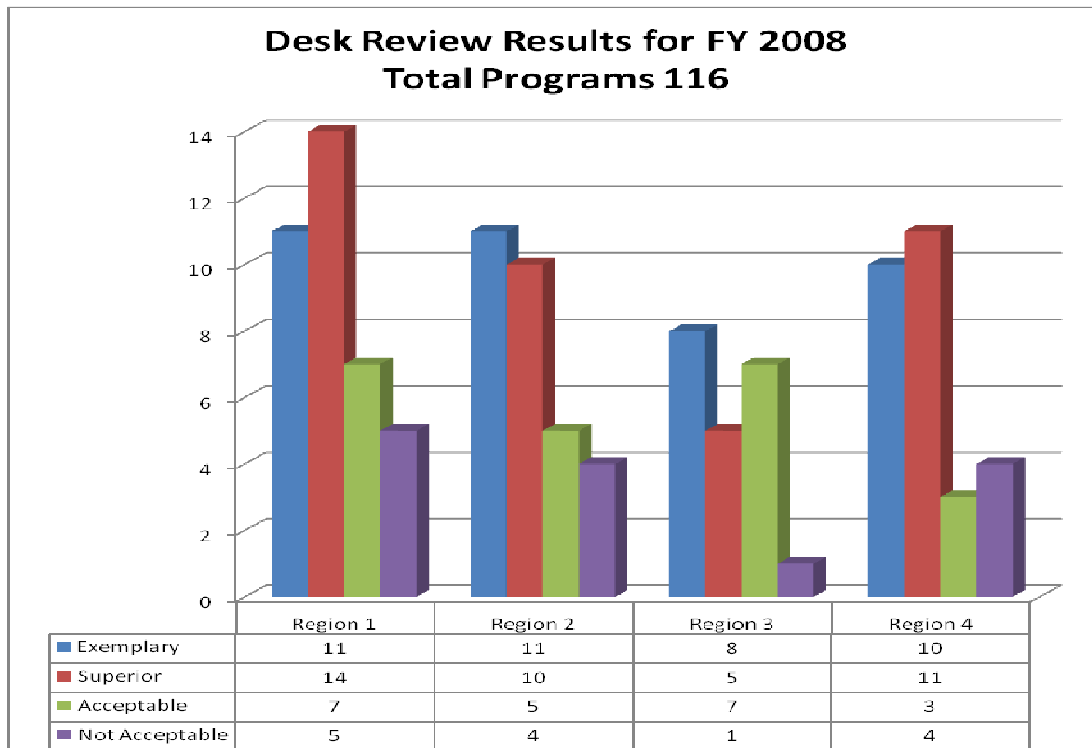
### **FY 2008 Desk Review Results**

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 ABE 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.

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

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 ABLÉ Programs**

Ohio ABLÉ 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 on-going technical assistance, ABLÉ teachers learn to effectively incorporate evidence-based approaches into their reading instruction. STAR focuses on ABLÉ students whose reading achievement falls into the intermediate range—Educational Functioning Levels of 3 and 4. Through FY 2009, 15 ABLÉ 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 ABLÉ 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](mailto:lynn.reese@sinclair.edu)) or Karen Scheid, (614-466-5015 or [kscheid@regents.state.oh.us](mailto:kscheid@regents.state.oh.us)). The deadline for consideration as a new STAR program in FY 2010 is August 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

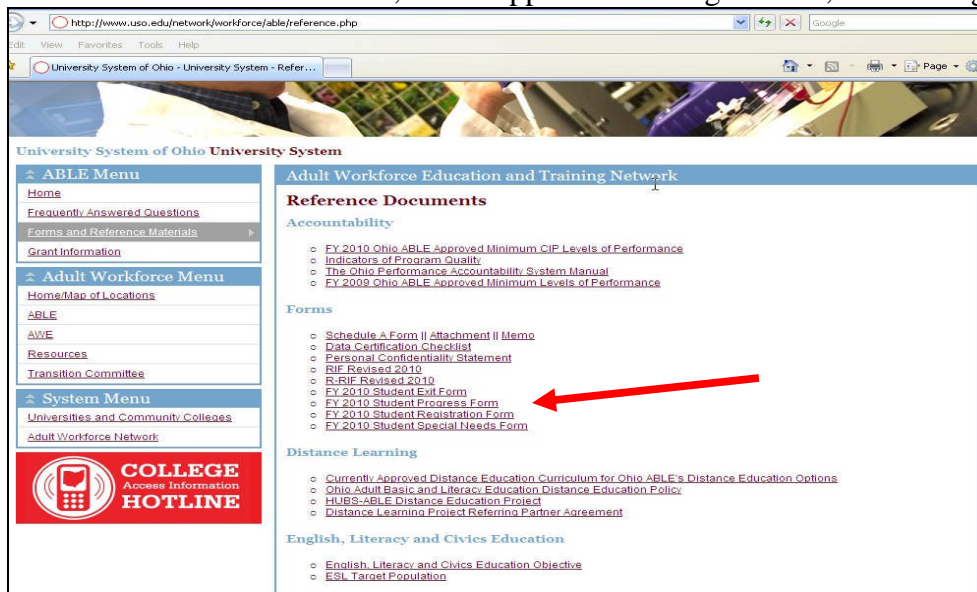
For more information about these changes, please contact the Ohio Department of Education State GED Office at **614-466-1577** and/or [ged@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:ged@ode.state.oh.us). Thank you.

## CASAS Tests

Effective June 30, 2009, CASAS will no longer provide or support the old *Life Skills* reading series. Ohio ABLÉ 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](mailto: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 ABLÉ 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.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the University System of Ohio ABLÉ website. The page is titled "University System of Ohio - University System - Refer...". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a navigation menu with sections: "ABLE Menu", "Adult Workforce Menu", and "System Menu". The right column is titled "Adult Workforce Education and Training Network" and contains "Reference Documents" and "Forms" sections. Under "Reference Documents", there is a sub-section "Accountability" with links to "FY 2010 Ohio ABLÉ Approved Minimum CIP Levels of Performance", "Indicators of Program Quality", "The Ohio Performance Accountability System Manual", and "FY 2009 Ohio ABLÉ Approved Minimum Levels of Performance". Under "Forms", there is a list of links including "Schedule A Form II Attachment II Memo", "Data Certification Checklist", "Personal Confidentiality Statement", "RIF Revised 2010", "R-RF Revised 2010", "FY 2010 Student Exit Form", "FY 2010 Student Progress Form", "FY 2010 Student Registration Form", and "FY 2010 Student Special Needs Form". A red arrow points to the "FY 2010 Student Registration Form" link. Below the "Forms" section, there are sections for "Distance Learning" and "English, Literacy and Civics Education".

## **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