



Workforce Development | Strategic Partnerships and ABE

Ability to Benefit (ATB): Overview

Ability to Benefit Staff & Partners

- **Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System Office**
 - Jess Niebuhr, Jim Verhoye, Larry Handlin
- **Minnesota Dept. of Education ABE Staff**
 - Brad Hasskamp, Julie Dincau
- **ABE Partners/College Partners**
 - 9 College/ABE Partnerships (SEE CHART)

What is Ability to Benefit (AtB)?

- A provision in the Higher Education Act (HEA)
- Allows a student who has not received HSD/E to be eligible for Title IV Federal student aid (Pell Grants) and Minnesota state financial aid
- Requires students be enrolled in an approved career pathway program

How to Qualify for Ability to Benefit?

First, a student must fulfill one of these alternatives:

Pass an independently administered test approved by the U. S. Department of Education.

Complete a State process approved by the Secretary of Education (“state-defined process”).

Complete at least 6 college credits applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by an accredited postsecondary institution.

Then the student must be enrolled in an eligible career pathway program.

Students accepted as ATB students must have college-level courses they can enter while completing their HS credential.

ATB students cannot use financial aid for developmental education.

Key Elements of Ability to Benefit

- **College and ABE Partner have connected and had at least one meeting**
- **AtB Partnership Checklist has been signed and submitted**
- **College and ABE Partner each have a designated “point person” for AtB**
- **Career Pathways have been identified**
- **Career Pathways have been approved**
- **Faculty in designated Career Pathways are engaged**
- **Intra-Agency Agreement has been signed and submitted**
- **Attend Professional Development monthly meetings.**

Ability to Benefit: College & ABE Program Chart

AS OF	College	ABE Program	Career Pathways
9/1/2023			
1	Hennepin Technical College	Adult Options in Education 1) Metro South ABE 2) Osseo ABE 3) Robbinsdale ABE	1) Architectural Technology 2) Accounting 3) Child Development 4) Medical Administrative Assistant 5) Medical Coding Specialist 6) Medical Receptionist 7) Fluid Power Engineering (Multiple) 8) Interactive Designer (Media Comms.) 9) Marine, Motorsport and Outdoor Power Equipment Technology
2	Lake Superior College	Duluth ABE	Early Discussions
3	Minneapolis College	Minneapolis ABE	Have Identified; In Discussion
4	Minnesota State College Southeast	1) Winona ABE 2) Red Wing ABE	1) Electromechanical Technology Diploma 2) CNC Machine Tool Diploma 3) Welding Diploma

5	Northwest Technical College	Bemidji ABE	Early Discussions
6	Pine Technical and Community College	1) Metro East ABE 2) St. Croix River Education District (SCRED) ABE	1) Welding Diploma 2) Nursing Asst. & Medication Aide 3) Network Administration 4) EMT
7	Riverland Community College	1) Austin ABE 2) Owatonna ABE 3) Albert Lea ABE	Early Discussions
8	Saint Paul College	St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium (SPCLC)	1) Truck Technician Diploma 2) Hospitality Management Certificate 3) Practical Nursing Diploma 4) Cyber Security AAS

9	South Central College	1) Mankato ABE 2) Faribault ABE	1) Health Unit Coordinator 2) Medical Lab Technician 3) Carpentry 4) Phlebotomy 5) Early Childhood Education 6) Medical Assistant 7) Mechatronics 8) Pre-Social Work
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Professional Development: 2023 - 2024

- **Via Zoom; 60 minutes; 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, September 12th: Fall Kickoff**
- **Monday, October 16th**
- **Monday, November 13th**
- **December: *No meeting***
- **Monday, January 22nd**
- **Monday, February 26th**
- **Monday, March 18th**
- **Monday, April 15th**
- **Monday, May 6th (Possibly in-person)**

Contact

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES

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ABE

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