ABE to Credentials
A BreakingThrough Initiative
Four year initiative: an initial design year and three years for implementation

Targets states with ABE governed through postsecondary education

Target population: ABE, ASE, and ESL students with skills at grade 6 and above

11 states have received design grants to develop ABE to Credentials pathways and develop blueprints for action.

Five states will pilot, refine, and scale ABE to Credential pathways in a critical mass of colleges statewide.
Streamlining Adult Education Pathways

- Accelerated and Integrated ABE and GED programs
- Articulated Career Pathways
- Stackable Credentials with Labor Market Value

- Career exploration
- Contextualized learning
- Skill-building for postsecondary/career success
- College and career counseling

- Accelerated skill-building integrated with credit coursework
- Support through gatekeeper courses
- Intensive transition counseling

- Comprehensive supplemental services
- Intensive counseling
- Flexible program options
- Job placement

More Adult Learners Succeeding in ABE to Credential Pathways
## Improving Student Experiences and Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What low-skilled, non-traditional students typically face:</th>
<th>ABE to Credential’s Solutions:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confusing array of career programs</td>
<td>Transparent college prep and career pathways</td>
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<td>General education focus as the default for programs and services</td>
<td>Programs and services specifically geared to career pathways</td>
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<td>Long remedial education sequences</td>
<td>Acceleration, compression and dual-enrollment strategies</td>
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<td>Inadequate or inaccessible support services</td>
<td>Array of support services, including intrusive advising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs not designed with career advancement in mind</td>
<td>Programs designed around labor market opportunities and needs</td>
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At least 8 colleges in each state implementing ABE to credential pathways at scale in multiple professional/technical areas

At least 450 students per college earning a marketable credential.

Potential impact: As many as 20,800 students nationwide earning marketable credentials

States will adopt policies and financing models to ensure that effective ABE to Credential programs are sustained and expanded.

States will engage other community colleges in a learning network to promote adoption and scale of effective approaches.
Non-Negotiable Program Elements

- Explicit **articulation of two or more educational pathways**, linked to career pathways;

- Evidence of **strong local demand** for the selected pathways;

- **Acceleration strategies**, including contextualized learning and the use of hybrid (online and classroom-based) course designs;

- **Evidence-based** dual enrollment strategies, including paired courses, I-BEST and I-BEST-like approaches;
Non-Negotiable Program Elements

- Comprehensive academic and social student supports;
- Achievement of marketable, stackable, credit-bearing certificates and degrees and college readiness;
- Award of some college-level professional-technical credits;
- Partnerships with Workforce Investment Boards and/or employers.
Building Momentum: The Breaking Through National Peer Learning Network

- Michigan Community Colleges
- South Texas Colleges
- AIHEC/ Tribal Colleges
- North Carolina Colleges
- Kentucky Breaking Through
- ABE to Credentials Network