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### Providing Staff and Program Development for Boston-Area Adult Basic Education Programs

Adult Literacy Resource Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston

System for Adult Basic Education Support (SABES)

College of Education and Human Development, University of Massachusetts Boston

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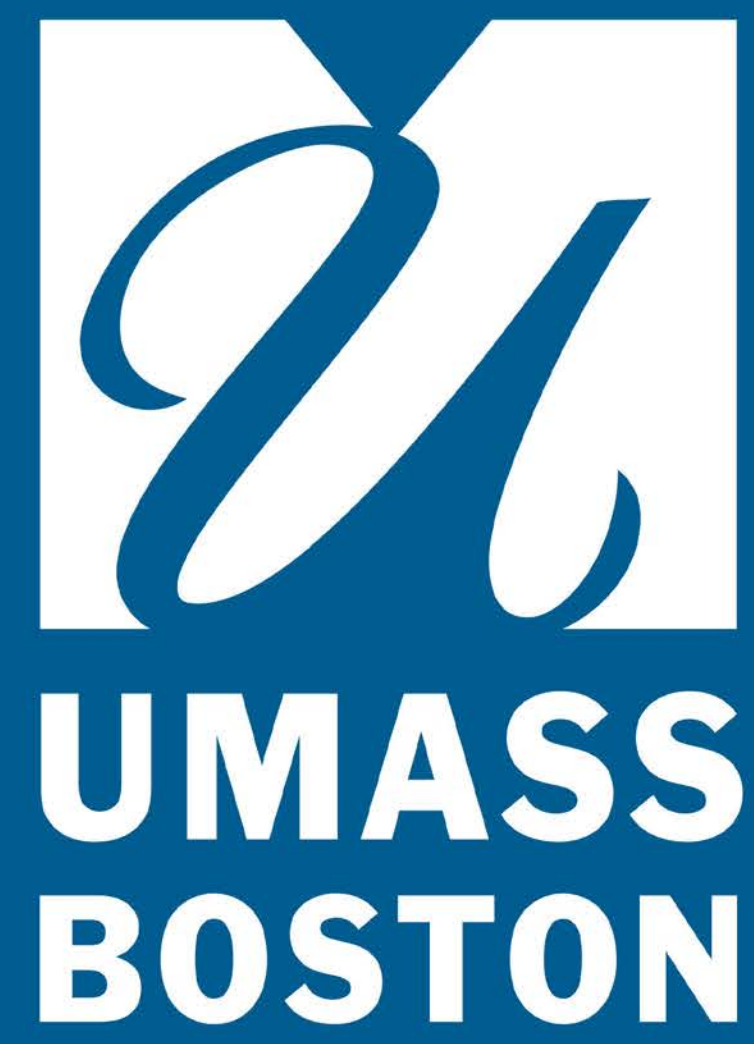
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# Providing Staff and Program Development for Boston-Area Adult Basic Education Programs

Adult Literacy Resource Institute/SABES Greater Boston Regional Support Center  
College of Education and Human Development



## Summary

The Adult Literacy Resource Institute (part of UMass Boston since 1983, and 100% grant-funded) serves as the Greater Boston Regional Support Center for SABES, the state's System for Adult Basic Education Support. We provide staff and program development services to adult basic education programs in the Boston area, especially the approximately 40 programs in the region (most located at community-based organizations) that are funded by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and that offer ESOL, basic literacy and numeracy, high school equivalency preparation, and other classes (including family literacy, civics education, career pathways, and college transition).

## Goals of ALRI and SABES

- To promote high-quality adult basic education services through professional development (PD), program support, and other resources that improve the skills and knowledge of practitioners and that strengthen programs.
- Collaborate with Regional Support Centers statewide and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a workplan that guides our work each year.

## Funding and Contact Information

The A.L.R.I. is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services and by the City of Boston/EDIC/Office of Jobs and Community Services. Contact information--A.L.R.I. Director: Steve Reuys, 7-4071, [steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu) (website: [www.sabes.org](http://www.sabes.org))

## Approaches and Methods

- Free professional development activities and other support services to teachers, counselors, and administrators at adult basic education programs in the Boston area.
- Services include mini-courses, workshops, sharing groups, program-based support, on-line activities, and individual technical assistance related to teaching and learning, curriculum and assessment, counseling and student support, program management and planning, workforce development and college transition, technology and data reporting, and other areas.

### Specializations of A.L.R.I.:

- Teaching Writing – statewide leadership to create a new PD program in writing.
- SABES Literacy Library – maintain and operate this resource, serving all adult basic education programs and practitioners throughout Massachusetts.
- Technology – develop new PD and provide technical assistance related to the state's adult basic education database (SMARTT) and integrating technology into classrooms.

## ABE Program Partners

<b>Downtown Boston:</b>	-Perkins International Institute of Boston	-Project Hope	<b>Roxbury:</b>
	-Jewish Vocational Service	-St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	-Dimock Center
	--YMCA International Services	<b>East Boston:</b>	-ESAC
	<b>Allston/Brighton:</b>	-Harborside Community Center	-WAITT House
	-Jackson/Mann Community Center	<b>HydePark:</b>	<b>South Boston:</b>
	<b>Charlestown:</b>	-Jewish Vocational Service/Hyde Park	-Notre Dame Education Center
	-Charlestown Community Center	<b>Jamaica Plain:</b>	-NDEC/Julie's Family Learning Program
	<b>Chinatown:</b>	-El Centro del Cardenal	<b>South End:</b>
	-Asian American Civic Association	-Jamaica Plain Community Center	-Educational Development Group
	-Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center	<b>Mattapan:</b>	-United South End Settlements
	<b>Dorchester:</b>	-ABCD/Mattapan Adult Education	<b>Cambridge:</b>
	-BPS Adult Learning Center	<b>North End:</b>	-Community Learning Center
	-College Bound Dorchester	-ABCD Neighborhood Service Center	<b>Somerville:</b>
	-Haitian Multi-Service Center	<b>Roslindale:</b>	-SCALE
	-Mujeres Unidas Avanzando	-ABCD/SouthSide Headstart	<b>Other:</b>
			-Suffolk County House of Correction
			-Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts

## Results/Impacts

### In FY2013:

- A.L.R.I. offered **69** region-wide staff and program development **activity sessions** reaching **734 participants**.
- 382 individual practitioners attended one or more** sessions, with most of them representing the 36 DESE-funded programs in the Greater Boston region (our primary target audience).

### New Professional Development:

- Writing PD opportunities developed, including the "Hungry to Write" course & "Knowing Writing" workshop.
- Online module for teachers on creating effective assessments.
- Online "SMARTT New User" training, incorporating A.L.R.I. instructional videos.
- Online version of existing "Integrating Career Awareness" course created.