



Work Requirements: Adult Basic Education (ABE)/English as a Second Language (ESL)

As of October 1999

State	ABE/ESL is an authorized work activity	Participation limited to certain groups	ABE/ESL must be combined with participation in other activities	Other required activities (if specified)	Maximum duration of participation (in months)
Totals	47 Yes 1 No 3 Local	18 Yes (see descriptions) 29 No	13 Yes 27 In some cases 8 No		35 No limit 4 12 months or less 7 18-36 months 1 Varies
Alabama	Yes	No	Yes	Countable work activities	No limit
Alaska	Yes	Participants whose personal educational level and goals indicate a need for completing a high school program or enhancing basic literacy skills; participants whose limited English proficiency creates a barrier to employment	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement	Work activities as specified in the self-sufficiency plan	12
Arizona	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		24
Arkansas	Yes	Individuals assessed to have basic educational deficiencies	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit

State	ABE/ESL is an authorized work activity	Participation limited to certain groups	ABE/ESL must be combined with participation in other activities	Other required activities (if specified)	Maximum duration of participation (in months)
California	Yes	Participants who lack basic literacy or mathematics skills, a high school diploma, or general educational development certificate, or English language skills	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		18/24
Colorado	Local	No	No		No limit
Connecticut	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Delaware	Yes	No	No		6
Dist of Columbia	Yes	No	Some individuals can meet the hourly requirement with education alone; others are encouraged to combine it with other countable activities.		No limit
Florida	Yes	No	Yes	Countable work activities	No limit
Georgia	Yes	--	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Hawaii	Yes	No	Yes	Countable work activities of 20 hours per week	No limit

State	ABE/ESL is an authorized work activity	Participation limited to certain groups	ABE/ESL must be combined with participation in other activities	Other required activities (if specified)	Maximum duration of participation (in months)
Idaho	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Illinois	Yes	Individuals without a high school diploma or GED; limited English proficiency; or reading level below 9.0	After 24 months of education alone	At least 20 hours per week of work	No limit
Indiana	Yes	Individuals with less than 8.9 grade level achievement in reading or math	No		No limit
Iowa	Yes	Individuals who demonstrate capability and express a desire to participate	No		No limit
Kansas	Yes	No	Yes	Any primary component	9
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	When possible, participants must also complete 20 hours of countable activities.	No limit
Louisiana	Yes	No	Yes	Federally-countable work activities, at least 20 hours per week	No limit
Maine	Yes	No	No		No limit

State	ABE/ESL is an authorized work activity	Participation limited to certain groups	ABE/ESL must be combined with participation in other activities	Other required activities (if specified)	Maximum duration of participation (in months)
Maryland	Yes	Individuals without a high school diploma or GED	Yes	Any core activity	No limit
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	Unsubsidized or subsidized employment, community service	--
Michigan	Yes	Individuals without a high school diploma or GED for whom proficiency in English is a barrier to employment	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Minnesota	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Mississippi	Yes	No	Yes	20 hours per week in work experience, community service or employment	No limit
Missouri	Yes	Individuals who have not completed high school or a GED	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Montana	Local	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement	Any approved, negotiated activities	No limit
Nebraska	Yes	Individuals for whom case managers indicate it is needed	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		24

State	ABE/ESL is an authorized work activity	Participation limited to certain groups	ABE/ESL must be combined with participation in other activities	Other required activities (if specified)	Maximum duration of participation (in months)
Nevada	Yes	No	No		No limit
New Hampshire	Yes	No	After 12 months of education alone	Job search or work-for-benefits	24
New Jersey	Yes	Individuals without a high school diploma or GED or English proficiency	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement	Community work experience program or other work activity	No limit
New Mexico	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
New York	Local				
North Carolina	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
North Dakota	Yes	Individuals who have not earned a high school diploma or GED; individuals with limited English proficiency	Yes	Must also complete 20 hours per week in another approved work activity	No limit
Ohio	Yes	Individuals without basic literacy skills	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Oklahoma	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit

State	ABE/ESL is an authorized work activity	Participation limited to certain groups	ABE/ESL must be combined with participation in other activities	Other required activities (if specified)	Maximum duration of participation (in months)
Oregon	Yes	No	No		No limit
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	After 12 months of education alone	Countable work activity	24
Rhode Island	Yes	Individuals for whom it is determined appropriate during assessment	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		36
South Carolina	Yes	Individuals with eighth grade or lower reading level	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement	May be required to participate in life skills.	No limit
South Dakota	Yes	No	Parents of children age 6 years or older	Countable work activities for at least 20 hours per week	No limit
Tennessee	Yes	No, but individuals testing below a 9th grade literacy level must participate in ABE 20 hours per week in order to be exempt from 40 hours per week work requirement.	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Texas	Yes	No	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		No limit
Utah	Yes	No	No		No limit

State	ABE/ESL is an authorized work activity	Participation limited to certain groups	ABE/ESL must be combined with participation in other activities	Other required activities (if specified)	Maximum duration of participation (in months)
Vermont	Yes	No	Yes	Activities defined in family development plan	Varies
Virginia	Yes	--	--		--
Washington	Yes	Individuals who need it to meet the current standards for the local labor market and who are participating in paid or unpaid employment or job search	Yes	Must be combined with paid or unpaid employment or job search	No limit
West Virginia	Yes	Clients lacking basic skills or lacking a GED.	If needed to meet hourly participation requirement		12
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	30 hours of community service job or 28 hours of W-2 Transitional Placement	24
Wyoming	No				

Local = local or county discretion

-- = Unknown