

## **BERKELEY ADULT SCHOOL**

### **English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Secondary Education (ASE) Skills Benchmarks, 2014-15**

The California Department of Education makes grants of federal literacy funds formerly known as the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), as of the current fiscal year known as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Grants go to adult education providers, primarily K-12 adult schools such as Berkeley Adult School. Two factors control the size of these grants: (1) the amount of federal literacy funds available to California, and (2) past performance of each participating education provider. Provider performance is measured in terms of indicators of student learning gains. Most commonly, the indicators correspond to score improvements on widely accepted standardized tests of adult literacy, known as CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System). When a student demonstrates one of these indicators, the student has “earned a benchmark” for the school. The table below summarizes the benchmarks considered in the WIA program and the corresponding dollar value.

#### **Summary of Benchmark Types and Dollar Value of Benchmarks**

<b>Program Area</b>	<b>Value per Benchmark (2014-15)</b>
Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advancing to the next level (e.g., from Beginning Low ESL to Beginning High ESL, as measured by CASAS test)</li> <li>• Progressing within a level (as measured by CASAS test)</li> </ul>	\$241.27
Adult Secondary Education (ASE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advancing to the next level (e.g., from ASE Low to ASE High, as measured by CASAS test)</li> <li>• Progressing within a level (as measured by CASAS test)</li> <li>• Passing the California High School Exit Exam</li> <li>• Passing a test to earn High School Equivalency (GED or HISET)</li> </ul>	\$547.66
English Literacy and Civics Education (EL Civics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passing performance assessments on specific community engagement skills (e.g., specific skills for participating in health care)</li> </ul>	\$94.61

The next table shows the number of benchmarks earned each year since 2008-09.

**Historic Data – Benchmarks Earned by BAS**

Program Area	Benchmarks Earned Each Year						
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*
ABE/ESL	1663	1534	1398	1540	1544	1816	1728
ASE	147	217	204	269	252	502	516
EL Civics	1587	1785	2211	2292	2611	2011	1963
Totals	3397	3536	3813	4101	4407	4329	4207

\*pending certification

The data for the years displayed show, generally, an upward trend in the number of benchmarks earned per year. The most dramatic change in the data is the increase in ASE benchmarks from 2012-13 to 2013-14. ASE benchmarks are those earning the highest dollar value in the grant. EL Civics benchmarks show a significant decline in the same period; benchmarks in this program area have the lowest dollar value and entail the most paperwork in documenting.

CDE is to send the official WIOA Grant Award Notification for 2015-16 in early October. CDE staff have unofficially communicated to us that we should expect an award of \$810,866. These funds must be used exclusively for adult literacy. Funds are to supplement an adult education program by, for example, increasing student access, enriching the bank of instructional materials, and providing professional development for staff. The amount of WIA funds stated in the Grant Award Notification for 2015-16 will be available to Berkeley Adult School regardless of our performance on benchmarks in 2015-16. The number of benchmarks we earn in 2015-16 will, however, influence the size of our award in 2017-18.