Support for English Learners in ABE

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English learners (ELs) participate in a wide range of Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes. However, we have found that many commonly used resources do not sufficiently support ELs. To bridge this gap, this document offers educators practical strategies aligned with Universal Design for Learning (UDL) guidelines to enhance instruction in Math and English Language Arts (ELA). UDL is a research-based framework designed to help all learners achieve meaningful goals by providing multiple ways to engage with content, develop skills and knowledge, and demonstrate understanding. For each UDL guideline, we outline targeted strategies to support ELs in Math and ELA. By integrating these strategies and routines, educators can foster more inclusive and effective learning environments for all students.

Design Multiple Means of: **Engagement**	Design Multiple Means of: **Representation**	Design Multiple Means of: **Action & Expression**

Access

Welcoming Interest & Identities
- Number of the Day
- Three-Act Tasks
- Co-Craft Questions and Problems
- Numberless Word Problems
- Slow Reveal Graphs/Maps

Perception
- Same information in multiple modalities (e.g., through vision, hearing)
- Digital versions of text for speech readers & customization of font size, etc.
- Color/texture coding
- Use (and explain the meaning of) icons
- Provide descriptions for all visuals (written or verbal)
- Provide transcripts and closed captioning for audio

Interactions
- Think-Pair-Share
- Stand and Talk
- Voice to Text

Support

Sustaining Effort & Persistence
- Which One Doesn't Belong?
- -- Talks (Dot, Number, Fraction, and Test Talks; Unit Chats)
- Ensure everyone is clear about what The goal is and options/scaffolds to get to the same goal
- Offer frequent, timely, specific feedback
- Track progress toward a goal

Language and Symbols
- Glossary (with images)
- Hyperlink definitions for vocabulary in text
- Vocabulary definitions using footnotes feature for print documents
- Alternative text descriptions for visuals
- Embed support for unfamiliar references within text
- Highlight how complex terms, expressions, or equations are composed of simpler words and symbols
- Clarify unfamiliar syntax and underlying structure
- Specific notation (e.g., the use of periods of commas in math)
- Concept maps to connect structure, etc.

- Word bank
- Word Wall
- Frayer model
- Bilingual Glossaries

Expression & Communication
- Sentence frames and sentence starters
- Stronger and Clearer Each Time
- Three Reads

Executive Function

Emotional Capacity
- Checklist for trying strategies
- Checklist for managing social communication aspects of learning
- Collect and chart data to monitor progress toward goals

Building Knowledge
- Socratic Seminar
- Convince Yourself, a Friend, a Skeptic
- Always-Sometimes-Never
- Graphic organizers

Strategy Development
- Self-reflection exit tickets
- Checklists
- Rubrics
- Information Gap