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# ALERT

THE VOICE OF  
ADULT EDUCATION  
IN MASSACHUSETTS

**Alert #6 - FY2012**

**February 29, 2012**

## ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW:** State (not federal)
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Staff, adult learners, volunteers
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** State representatives and state senators
4. **TIME LINE:** Immediate, especially to state representatives who are drafting their FY2013 list of budget priorities now

## NEED IMMEDIATE CALLS TO STATE REPS AND SENATORS TO PUT ABE ON FY 2013 BUDGET WISH LISTS

- On January 25, Governor Patrick released House 2, the administration's proposed budget for FY 2012 (7/1/12 - 6/30/13).

- The budget is non-binding and gives the legislature and the public an indication of the Governor's spending priorities.

- **The Governor's budget funds the ABE line item #7035-0002 at \$30,707,455 -- essentially the same amount of funding ABE is receiving this year.**

- **In the FY 2012 budget approved in July, the ABE line item was funded at \$27,702,108. An additional \$3 million was secured for ABE in a supplemental budget approved in the fall for a total appropriation of \$30,702,108.**

- **All advocates are communicating their budget requests to the House and Senate now, and we must also do so or risk not being heard.**

## NEXT MCAE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**March 9, 2012**

10 a.m. to 12 noon  
UMass/Boston  
100 Morrissey Blvd  
Healey Library  
Media Conference Room  
Lower Level

via videoconference:  
Picknelly Education Center,  
Holyoke, MA  
contact [gkohout@hcc.edu](mailto:gkohout@hcc.edu) for  
exact room location

## IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

- Please make 2 calls: one to your state representative and one to your state senator. It will take less than 5 minutes to make a call. If everyone makes their calls, we could generate thousands of calls and have a real impact.

- Speak with an aide if you cannot speak with the representative or senator directly, and ask for the aide's name for future reference.

## SCRIPT TO USE

1. Give your name.

2. Say you live in the representative/senator's district. If you are registered to vote, say you are a registered voter in the district.

3. **Urge the representative/senator to put ABE on their FY 2013 budget wish list to the House/Senate leadership at a funding level of \$30.7 million, which is the same funding level as FY 2012.**

4. **If you have time, say why adult basic education is especially important now:**

- People without jobs need ABE services even more now so they can be ready for jobs that emerge as the economy recovers.

- Unemployed adults who need ABE services are eager and ready to learn, and have the time now, especially while they are not working.

- Helping adults to improve their basic skills rapidly will help them, individual businesses and the state's economy all increase productivity.

- While we encourage high school students to complete high school and earn a diploma, adult basic education is an important resource for students who drop out of high school and need their GED to be eligible for training programs, higher education and better job opportunities.

5. **If you are a student, say how adult basic education is helping you to achieve your goals.**

6. Thank the representative/senator or aide for his/her time, especially if you are told that the representative/senator is or will put ABE on his/her FY13 budget wish list..

7. **Report back so we know who supports this request and where we must do follow-up!**

## REPORT BACK

1. Please report back to your Program Point Person. If you do not know who your Program Point Person is or you don't have one, please report back to Jennifer McAllister at MCAE. ([jmcallister@mcae.net](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net))

2. Report the following important information to your program point person for each individual call you made:

- Whom you called and his/her response.
- Rate the response from each call separately using this scale:

**0 = unknown; left a message;**

**1 = made a definitive commitment to support the specific request (not just ABE in general);**

**2 = favorable toward request, but no definite commitment;**

**3 = neutral toward your request;**

**4 = opposed or negative to the request; definitely will not support it.**

## MORE INFORMATION

- If you do not know who your state representative or senator is, either call the State House switchboard (617-722-2000) or go to [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com).

- For questions on this alert contact Roberta Soolman ([litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com) or 617-367-1313), Steve Reuys ([steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu) or 617-287-4071), or Jennifer McAllister ([jmcallister@mcae.net](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net) or 508-208-0130).

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO MAKE THESE IMPORTANT CALLS!**

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