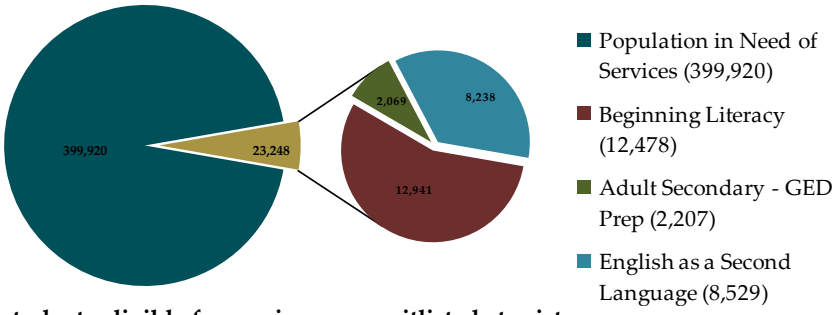
2011 New Mexico Adult Basic Education Fact Sheet

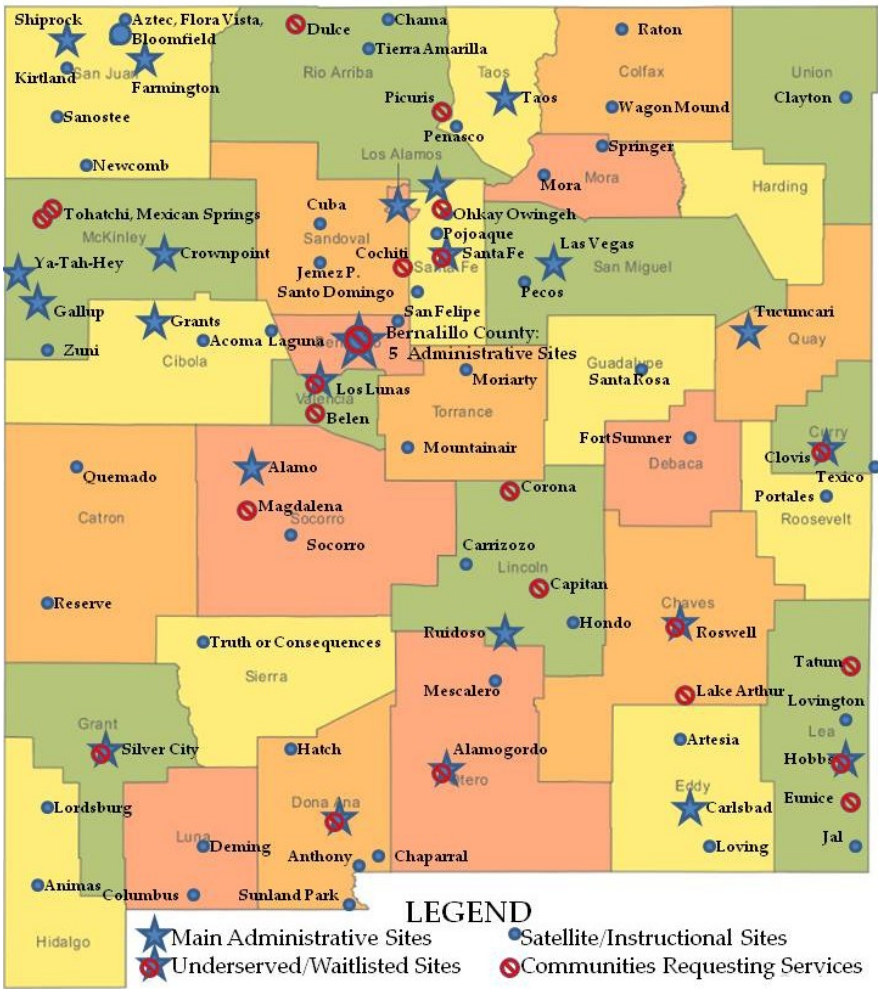
The New Mexico Higher Education Department Adult Basic Education Division serves adults 16 years of age and older who function below the high school completion level. The 28 Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs in the state provide opportunities for New Mexico's adults to improve their lives through free classes assisting students in:

- **Learning basic literacy and numeracy skills**
- **Earning a GED high school diploma**
- **Learning English as a second language (ESL) and Civics**
- **Preparing for college and careers**
- **Obtaining and keeping a job**

Nearly 400,000 New Mexico Adults do not have a high school diploma and/or English language skills. New Mexico ABE currently serves only 5% of the population in need.



In 2009-10, nearly 1,000 students eligible for service were waitlisted at existing programs due to lack of capacity, with 29 additional communities or community organizations requesting ABE services.



Programs and Enrollment 2009-10

ABE Program	Students
Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.	94
Catholic Charities	1,090
Central NM Community College	3,765
Clovis Community College	700
Dine College	278
ENMU-Roswell	2,121
ENMU-Ruidoso	266
Luna Community College	306
Mesalands Community College	106
Navajo Technical College	155
NM Dept. of Corrections	2,020
NM Junior College	588
NMSU-Alamogordo	348
NMSU-Carlsbad	915
NMSU-Doña Ana	3,887
NMSU-Grants	311
Northern NM College	314
Sage Lifelong Learning	128
San Juan College	862
Santa Fe Community College	1,723
Ser De NM	199
Socorro Schools (Closed June 2010)	37
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic	198
UNM-Gallup	735
UNM-Los Alamos	310
UNM-Taos	256
UNM-Valencia	1,153
Western NM University	383
TOTAL	**23,248**

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Over 23,000 students served annually at New Mexico ABE programs across the state are making significant gains in quality of life through earning a high school diploma and greater access to employment and higher education.

ABE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

$52,118,660	-	$6,212,100	=	$45,876,560
Savings + Increased Income		09-10 State ABE Budget		New Mexico's Return on Investment

- **$20,913,360 in new income from 1,272 students gaining jobs (1,272 x 2,080 hrs x $7.50/hr.) and 554 students receiving job promotions (554 x 2,080 hours x $.50/hr.)**
- **$30,408,300 in enhanced earning potential from GED Graduates (2,691 students x $11,300/yr.)**
- **An estimated savings of $767,000 from 59 students leaving public assistance (59 x $13,000 annual average TANF benefits for family of four)**

ABE is AFFORDABLE

Cost for NM K-12 students : $7,698 / year per student; For College Students: $10,195 / year per student

For ABE Students: $267 / year per student

ABE is EFFECTIVE

ABE produced 2,691 GED Graduates in 2009-10; over 1,000 ABE Students enrolled in college courses; and over 1,250 previously unemployed students entered the workforce.

ABE is CHANGING LIVES

"Completing my GED has helped me to realize that I need to be a role model to my daughter and be able to provide for her. I also wanted to prove to myself that I could do it and I did."
-Joel Pettigrew, Diné College

"My plans for the future aside from getting my GED are to continue my education. I want to focus on a career and not so much a job. I want to make me and my daughter proud."
-Iris Contreras, SER de NM

Catholic Charities ABE Students celebrate GED Graduation, November 2010

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