



Literacy Service Plan 2012-2013

Frequently Asked Questions

What is LBS?

LBS stands for Literacy and Basic Skills and is part of Employment Ontario. LBS helps adults prepare for

- independence
- credit
- apprenticeship
- post-secondary
- employment

LBS has 4 streams: Anglophone (English), Francophone, Native, and Deaf.

Is literacy an issue?

Both the International Adult Literacy Survey (1994) and the follow-up Adult Learning and Lifeskills Survey (ALLS-2003), found that 42% of all Canadians have difficulty with everyday literacy tasks.

Who can attend LBS classes?

Anyone over the age of 19 can attend an LBS program. Some programs may allow students over the age of 16 to attend. You should have some identification to prove your residency status in Ontario.

How do I know if LBS programs are right for me?

LBS programs are right for anyone who needs to improve their literacy and essential skills. Even if you finished Grade 12 but feel that you have difficulty with basic skills, you can still participate in LBS classes.

Where can I find LBS classes?

LBS classes are available in every region of Ontario. Within each region there are often multiple providers. Call ABEA for further information – 905-527-2222.

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Who offers LBS programs?

There are many different providers for LBS. In your area LBS may be provided by a school board, community college or community based program such as a literacy council or pre-employment program.

Who funds LBS?

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), which is a part of the Ontario provincial government. LBS is a part of the Employment Ontario umbrella of MTCU services.

How much does it cost to be a student in an LBS program?

Most LBS programs are free. Some programs may charge a small fee to register (less than \$25).

How many students are in an LBS class?

Class sizes vary (2 to 20+); some programs provide tutors who work 1 to 1 with learners.

When can I take LBS classes?

Most LBS classes are continuous intake – you can start anytime. Note that some programs may close during the summer. Most LBS classes are offered during the day, but many locations also offer evening classes.

Are LBS programs full-time or part-time? Can I study at home?

Most LBS programs are offered on a full or part-time basis. Programs with tutors may be flexible in terms of when and where they can meet with students. There are some e-learning methods that allow learners to work at home. Also, learners can take Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) courses online.

Can I take LBS classes to a Grade 12 level?

Community colleges in Ontario that offer LBS classes also have programs that bridge between LBS and college-level studies. These programs are considered as a Grade 12 equivalent for purposes of entry into college programs and apprenticeship. These programs are generally referred to as Academic Upgrading or College and Career Preparation (C&CP) programs.

Does LBS serve English as a Second Language (ESL) clients?

Yes, but LBS is typically for learners who speak English as a first language or who have higher English speaking skills. ABEA can help you determine which program meets your needs. Call 905-527-2222 for more information.

Can I take LBS in French?

Yes, most regions in Ontario have LBS classes available in French.

Can LBS help me with learning disabilities?

Most LBS programs do not have specific classes for learners with diagnosed learning disabilities. However, many instructors can help you increase your functional literacy skills and inform you of strategies and accommodations to help you manage learning disabilities.

What is a Learning Disability?

An official definition of Learning Disabilities can be found at www.ldrc.ca.

Can I study LBS on the Internet?

The Learning Hub offers LBS online. Academic Upgrading through ACE is also available online. Many programs also use e-channel.ca. E-channel is an online learning environment for literacy programs.

If I am on Ontario Works, can I attend an LBS program?

Yes, and in most cases attending LBS classes can help you meet your participation agreement requirements.

If I am on Employment Insurance (EI), can I attend an LBS program?

Yes, but check to see how many hours you are approved by EI to attend. Some EI offices will only approve academic upgrading for less than 10 hours per week and other offices will approve training for more hours per week.

What commitment do I have to make when I attend an LBS class?

Whether you attend on a part-time or full-time basis, instructors are looking for you to make a commitment to a schedule and specific goals.

What is Employment Ontario?

Employment Ontario is a network for all of the employment, training and education services offered or funded through MTCU. This includes LBS programs.

What does a Learning Network do?

The main role of Learning Networks is to facilitate the Literacy Community Planning (LCP) process. They function as a liaison between the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and local literacy providers as a group. Learning Networks also function to build partnerships and collaboration in the community between literacy providers and other community stakeholders. Learning Networks may also undertake a variety of other activities related to literacy such as research, training or assessment services.

Do Learning Networks have classes?

No. However, every Learning Network can provide referral to all of the LBS programs in its region.

Who funds Learning Networks?

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities fund Learning Networks. Learning Networks are part of the Employment Ontario umbrella of MTCU services.

What does LCP mean?

LCP stands for Literacy Community Planning. This is a process by which all of the literacy service providers in a region co-ordinate and plan services. This co-ordination culminates in an annual Literacy Service Plan (LSP).

What are Essential Skills?

The term Essential Skills, in Canada, is generally used to refer to the system developed by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) as a comprehensive description of the range of skills which are “essential” for work, learning and life. There are nine Essential Skills: Reading Text, Document Use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with Others, Continuous Learning, Thinking Skills, and Computer Use.