

Age Range of the ABE Authorization: Why the 0-21 Designation?

1. In Colorado, the state-administered federally-funded adult education grant program resides within the state education agency's (SEA) K-12 system. Adult education, administered by the SEA and therefore a component of the K-12 system, follows SEA administrative policies, procedures, and processes, including the rules and regulations of Colorado Educator Licensing.
2. All state educator authorizations contain an authorized age group or grade level range. Of the age groups and grade level ranges currently approved by the state for licensed educators, the 0-21 range most closely reflects the broad range of skill levels of the target populations served by AEFLA programs.
3. The 0-21 age range of the authorization does not imply exclusion of educational services to those over age 21, but does preclude the provision of educational services beyond the high school level, which is in compliance with the purposes of the federally funded adult education program.
4. The 0-21 category covers the continuum of educational functioning levels that comprise Adult Basic and Secondary Education (ABE/GED) as well as English language acquisition and English literacy skills (ESL). This category is also appropriate for the adult education skill levels and children's developmental phases targeted within the four components of family literacy.
5. The content of ABE, ASE, and ESL curricula is designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to earn a high school diploma or its equivalent and prepare students to enter post secondary education and the workforce; fully in alignment with the underlying purposes of the Colorado Academic Standards.
6. The process to authorize a new age group or grade level range specifically for adult education would involve approval by the State Board of Education and the Colorado General Assembly (State Legislature). This is a time consuming process, and for the reasons given above is not a necessary investment of time and resources.