

# Friday NewsBriefs



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## Visit Our Calendar of Events

[www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org)  
[www.neable.org](http://www.neable.org)

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## Stay Connected

Sign up for the Friday NewsBriefs online

Contact Us  
[info@neable.org](mailto:info@neable.org)

## Professional Development Opportunities

### New Support Staff Orientation

Please plan ahead for New Support Staff Orientation. This is a required series for new ABLE support staff that includes four parts. Each session focuses on one of four topics: professional development, communication skills, motivation and retention of adult students, and accountability.

All sessions in the series are conducted via Elluminate, an online webconferencing tool. Participants will receive information on how to access Elluminate prior to the session. Below is a full schedule of all offerings for each of the four sessions, so please plan ahead, and register as soon as possible.

- Session 1: Intro to PD (Region 1 only)
  - 12/1/2011 10:00am-11:00am
  - 12/1/2011 3:00pm-4:00 pm
- Session 2: Communication (Statewide)
  - 01/24/2012 10:00am-11:00am
  - 01/26/2012 1:00pm-2:00pm
- Session 3: Instructional Support (Statewide)
  - 02/15/2012 1:00pm-2:00pm
  - 02/16/2012 9:00am-10:00am
- Session 4: Accountability (Statewide)
  - 03/07/2012 9:30am - 11:00 am
  - 03/15/2012 2:00pm-3:30pm

## New Elluminate Web Conference Training

Elluminate has collaborated with Blackboard to create a more comprehensive web conferencing system called Blackboard Collaborate. This web conferencing tool has a new interface and other features that were not included in the previous version of Elluminate. Northwest ABLE Resource Center is offering a webinar for those who need an up to date training on the new features or just to learn about the platform in general. There are two sessions with information specific to Moderators, and two sessions with information specific to Participants.

- Moderator Sessions
  - 11/17/2011 11:00am-12:00pm
  - 12/15/2011 11:00am-12:00pm
- Participant Sessions
  - 11/30/2011 1:00pm-2:00pm
  - 12/13/2011 2:00pm-3:00pm

To register for any of the New Support Staff Orientation or Elluminate Sessions listed above, please visit the Calendar of Events at [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org).

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## News and Updates

### New GED Braille Test and Training Tools

From the GED Testing Service:

The Braille version of the GED<sup>®</sup> tests has been upgraded. GED Testing Service is excited to announce a new version of Braille GED<sup>®</sup> tests that reflect the current best practices in Braille documents and uses the most recent updates to the Braille code. The newly revised Braille test offers visually-impaired students increased access to raised tactile graphics that better represent many of the images in the GED<sup>®</sup> test. The new test can be ordered through the GED Access Point. Braille test orders that have already been placed for 2012 will automatically receive the new test.

For more information about the new version, check out the GED Testing Service Press Release at

[http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/news/2011\\_10\\_31\\_GED\\_New\\_Braille\\_Version.pdf](http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/news/2011_10_31_GED_New_Braille_Version.pdf)

GED Testing Service has also created a new training tool that saves testing centers time and money when it comes to training new examiners on the current testing program. The program, On-Demand Training for Examiners, consists of four computer modules that examiners can take whenever and wherever it is most convenient. The training consists of four modules. “Currently, jurisdictions primarily train new examiners and new chief examiners face to face,” said Martha Bozman, operations director at GED Testing Service. “The On-Demand training can extend, reinforce, or replace portions of the current face-to-face training.”

For more information about this training or to enroll, please contact Krystie Whitaker, program coordinator at the GED Testing Service at [krystle.whitaker@GEDtestingservice.com](mailto:krystle.whitaker@GEDtestingservice.com).

## **Women’s Perspectives #7: Women and Communication**

WE LEARN (Women Expanding Literacy Education Action Resource Network) is currently seeking submissions for Women’s Perspectives #7: Women and Communication. This publication will feature original writings by adult literacy/basic education students. Writings are accepted from ALL adult literacy learners. Student writers are encouraged to think and share your ideas on this theme. Deadline for Submission is December 22, 2011. For more information, please visit <http://app.e2ma.net/app2/campaigns/archived/30194/71f5d048f14c05269a74f638be6261b9/> or contact WE LEARN at [welearn@litwomen.org](mailto:welearn@litwomen.org)

## **Internship and Job Seekers Encouraged to Visit OhioMeansJobs.com**

OhioMeansJobs.com serves as Ohio's official online portal to virtual job-matching services and many other workforce resources. Through a partnership with Monster.com, OhioMeansJobs.com aggregates jobs from across the internet to create a single website where internship

and job seekers can post their resumes and search tens of thousands of job openings.

Ohio businesses can post job and internship openings on for free. Job seekers can post resumes and information, also for free.

To check it out, visit <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/>.

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## Matt's Tech Tip

### [Ctrl] + [F]

[Ctrl] + [F] is a keyboard shortcut that makes it easy to find a specific word or phrase on a web page or in a document. To try this out, open a document or a web page and then press the key combination of [Ctrl] + [F]. This will open the Find function that allows you to type the word you are looking for into the text box.

The Find function will search the page for all instances of that word or phrase and allow you to browse through them. This shortcut can be a big time saver by helping you to quickly identify key words or phrases without having to skim page after page.

Happy Finding!

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## The Resource Room

### Spotlight on GED Resources

#### Bodega Resources

##### GED Test Study Guide

This guide provides a comprehensive look at skills and strategies needed to pass the GED test. This resource can be accessed online, but if you need a hard copy of it, feel free to request it from us, and

we will print it out and send it. To access the resource online, please visit

[www.studyguidezone.com/gedtest.htm](http://www.studyguidezone.com/gedtest.htm).

## Most Missed Math Questions on the GED Test

According to an analysis of GED Testing Service (GEDTS) data, four areas of the GED test cause students the most difficulty. Informational materials about these problem areas are posted below. The materials include sample questions from each area and an analysis of common student errors that lead to missing the question. Each area also identifies the skill gaps and specific ideas on how to incorporate those skills into classroom instruction.

- Geometry and Measurement
- Reading and Interpreting Graphs and Tables
- Application of Basic Math Principles to Calculations
- Problem Solving and Mathematical Reasoning

These materials are available online at

[www.kyae.ky.gov/educators/misssedgedquestions.htm](http://www.kyae.ky.gov/educators/misssedgedquestions.htm)

## GED Plus College Preparation Curriculum and Resource Guide

From the GED Plus College Preparation Website:

“The *Florida GED PLUS College Preparation Program* is designed to provide GED students with the necessary skills for successful transition into college-level courses of study. The program focuses not only on assisting students in passing the GED Test, but also on attaining college-ready skills in the areas of writing, reading, algebra, research and word processing, goal setting, and time management.” These materials are available online at

[www.floridatechnet.org/gedplus](http://www.floridatechnet.org/gedplus)

To request hard copies of these and other GED resources through our office, please visit

[www.neable.org/resources/bodega/bodega-ged](http://www.neable.org/resources/bodega/bodega-ged)

**Remember that all Bodega items are provided at no cost and are yours to keep!**

## Library Resources

- *Complete GED* (Contemporary)
- *Complete PreGED Preparation* (Steck-Vaughn)
- *GED Completo* (Contemporary)
- *GED Scoreboost Workbooks* (New Readers Press)
- *Keys to GED Success* (Steck-Vaughn)
- *Pass the GED: 5 Steps to Test Success* (New Readers Press)
- *Visual Literacy* (New Readers Press)

## Web Resources

### GED Teacher Resource Center

[www.newreaderspress.com/ged/index.asp](http://www.newreaderspress.com/ged/index.asp)

Provided by New Readers Press, this website has lots of ideas for activities, information, a discussion board, updates, and transitions information.

### LearningExpress Library

[www.learnatest.com.proxy.oplin.org/LEL/index.cfm](http://www.learnatest.com.proxy.oplin.org/LEL/index.cfm)

This website boasts a collection of skill-building interactive courses for math, reading, writing and technology. Online practice tests are also available to prepare students for several types of exams including the GED. Ohio residents can access the LearningExpress Library through the Ohio Public Library Information Network.

### Contemporary GED Review Sites

For subject specific GED review materials, please visit

[www.gedscience.com/](http://www.gedscience.com/)  
[www.gedsocialstudies.com/](http://www.gedsocialstudies.com/)  
[www.gedmath.com/](http://www.gedmath.com/)

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# Thoughts on Persistence

From the Mini Book on Retention Strategies in *The Retention Toolkit*.

Programs should have informal and formal student recognition systems for achievement, attendance, and commitment.

Reward students who have great attendance with incentives, like program coffee mugs or pocket calculators or donated coupons from area businesses.

Give certificates of completion with students' names on them when students finish program milestones, such as orientation.