



ARKANSAS BILINGUAL INTERPRETER CREDENTIAL IN EDUCATION (ABICE) TRAINING COURSE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. What is ABICE?

ABICE – Arkansas Bilingual Interpreter Credential in Education is a credential for bilingual professionals who provide interpretation services in educational settings that serve children from birth through 12th grade. It is recognized as a professional credential by both the Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

ABICE is the first credential for oral language bilingual interpreters in education in Arkansas. The certifications offered for medical and court interpretation do not cover the same terminology nor the same procedures as are typical in educational settings, thus they are not interchangeable.

2. Why do I need the ABICE credential?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act provides the legal foundation for obtaining this credential. Programs receiving any federal funding are to provide qualified adult interpreters when needed for meeting with families who have limited proficiency in English. The ABICE credential indicates a qualified educational interpreter.

Qualified interpreters are important to effectively support and engage families and “increase communication across all languages,” which addresses the *Family and Community Engagement – FACE Essentials AR*, (Communication Key Elements –Communication Essential, <https://sites.google.com/view/engagementmattersAR>).

3. How do I obtain the ABICE credential?

You must complete the 40-contact-hour training course; pass five quizzes during the course; demonstrate appropriate interpretation skills during the course and pass (80% or better) a comprehensive final exam. The course may be presented either in-person or virtually, but it will cover the same content. Although this course is for oral language interpretation, reviewing the training materials and completing the final exam require English reading comprehension and writing skills.

In addition to the ABICE credential, participants are eligible to receive professional development hours through the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development Registry (PDR).

4. Are there any educational requirements to be eligible to attend the ABICE training course?

No specific educational level is required, but you must be at least 18 years old and demonstrate oral fluency in English and another language by passing an oral language proficiency assessment to be accepted into the training course. This assessment of both English and the target language is conducted by phone and provides scores on conversational fluency, listening comprehension and basic interpretation skills. Scores are compiled to provide an overall score of Basic, Intermediate or Proficient. You must score “Proficient” to attend the ABICE course.



ARKANSAS BILINGUAL INTERPRETER CREDENTIAL IN EDUCATION (ABICE) TRAINING COURSE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

5. If I have passed the oral language proficiency assessment, why do I need to attend the ABICE training?

Just because someone is bilingual does not mean they are qualified to conduct interpreted meetings. Interpreting is a skill, with a Code of Ethics and standards of practice. Training of interpreters is important to ensure accurate communication to protect children, families and programs.

6. What is the cost to participate?

The rate is only \$325 per participant, which covers the 40-hour training course, training materials, and course materials. Thanks to sponsor support, we can offer this valuable training at less than half of the cost of providing the training. The majority of the training cost is covered by the Welcome the Children project, which is administered by the University of Arkansas Partners for Inclusive Communities and funded by the Arkansas DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (through Child Care Development Funds) and by the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) through the Arkansas Better Chance Funds.

7. How do I pay?

When you have been notified that you have been accepted into the training, you will receive a link to pay online by credit card. If you need to pay by check, please contact Brenda Reynolds bkreynol@uark.edu to request an invoice.

8. How do I apply?

The application is posted online. The links will be available on the Welcome the Children website <https://uofapartners.uark.edu/projects/welcome-the-children/>. If you have any problems locating the application, contact Brenda Reynolds at bkreynol@uark.edu. Due to our funding limitations, the ABICE training program is currently only available to interpreters providing services in Arkansas.

9. What is the process after I apply?

The ABICE Advisory Committee will review all applications that have been received by the application deadline. If more applications have been received than available slots, applicants will be selected based on diversity of languages, geographic area and program diversity, with preference given to individuals providing interpretation services in early childhood settings.

If you do not pass the bilingual oral language assessment at the "Proficient" level you will not be able to attend that session of the ABICE training course, but we will refund your registration fee (minus \$120 for the bilingual oral language proficiency assessment). If you think you can improve your fluency scores to the level of "Proficient," you will be given the option of applying for a future ABICE training course and retaking the fluency assessment on a later date (at no additional charge) instead of being given a refund.

Arkansas educational interpreters (and translators) are encouraged to list their services on the searchable online database <https://abice.uark.edu/>.