

# Stackable Certificates

## Understanding the Three Paths to Postsecondary Education

- There are three paths to postsecondary education (including worker training beyond high school)

### Traditional Pipeline

Students who graduate from high school and go directly to college, possibly with some need for remediation

### Non-Traditional Pipeline

Students who take a little time off from school – between high school and college, and/or before high school graduation

### Adult Learner Pipeline

Adults who take more time off from school – who have different needs that don't fit into either of the other two paths.

- See the attached graphic for an overview of these three paths.

## Making Key Choices

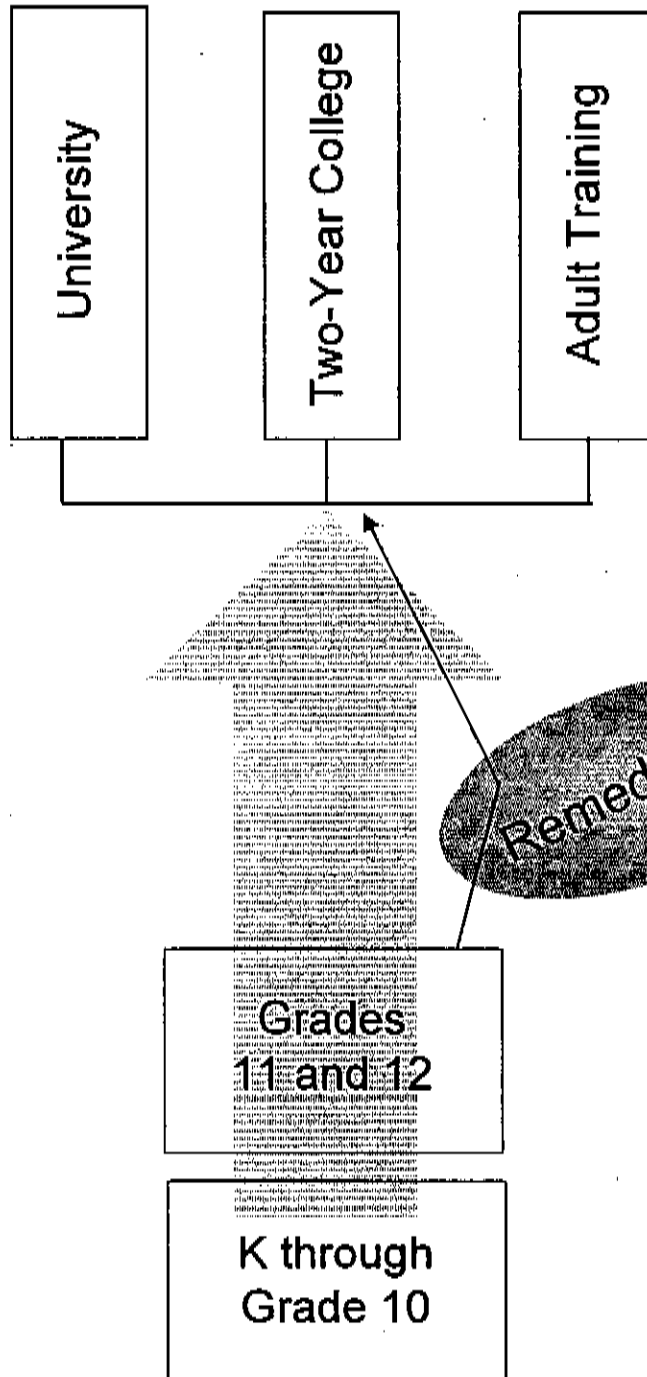
1. Realign ABE programs to form pre-collegiate certificates that build to college level certificates in a seamless and transparent pathway for all citizens.
  - This would create three levels of certificates, beginning with the basic and concluding with college/work ready.
  - It would align all pre-college certificates – for grade 8 through the GED – with ABE programs.
  - The last certificate would “tip” the student into college and seal (or close) the gap between the GED exit and college entrance.
    - The content in this “tipping” certificate would focus on mathematics, English, critical thinking skills and college study skills.
    - This last certificate would include a college credit-bearing course in IT foundations.

2. College certificates:

- The stackable certificate initiative will begin with the five developed by the adult career to college credit work.
- Additional certificates will be developed at a statewide level.
- Additional college-level certificates will be developed on a regional basis to meet needs defined by the Ohio Skills Bank.
- Each certificate will be “stand alone,” but with properties that will allow it to be automatically translated into college credit.

3. Implementation of stackable certificates:

- Implementation will be standardized across the state of Ohio, even though some individual certificates will be developed at the regional level.
- The initiative will be carried out through the Ohio Skills Bank structure.
- A validation center will be established to ensure credit transfer among institutions and programs.
- ABLE will assist in ensuring service alignment on campuses.
- Grants will be available for pilot stackable concept in each region.

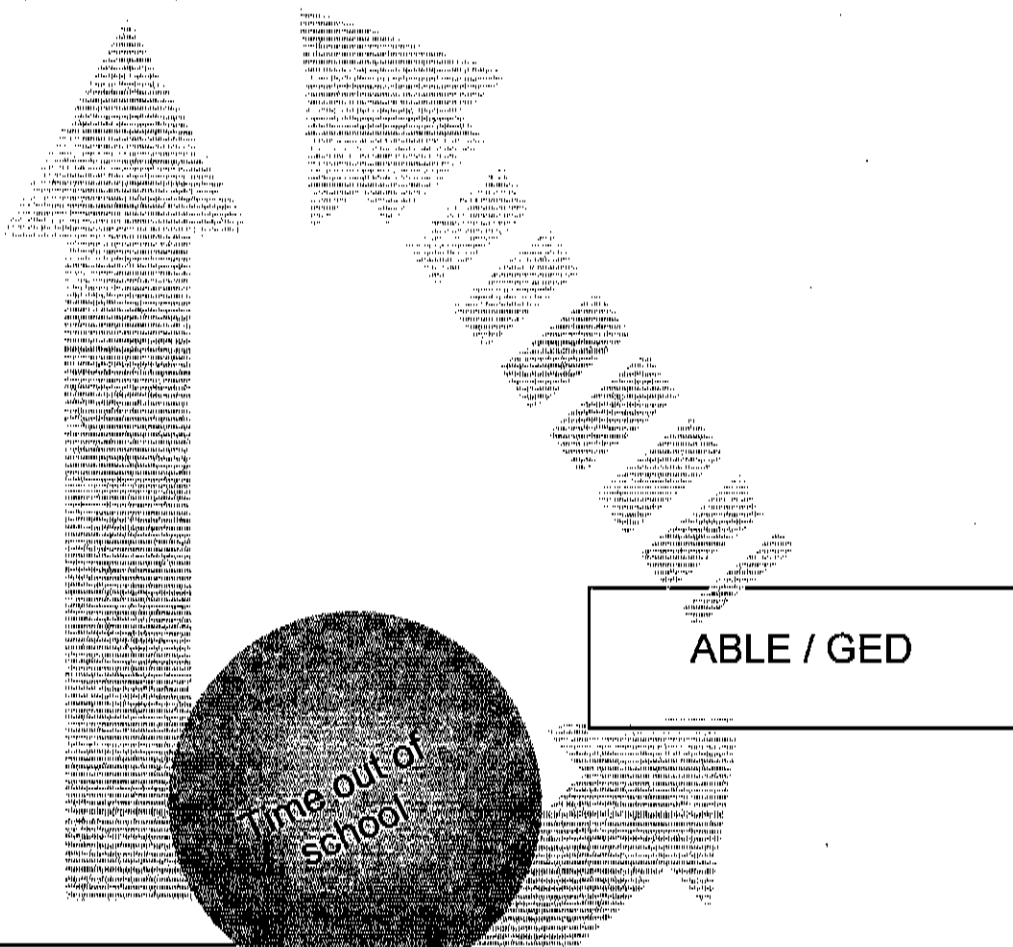


# Traditional Pipeline

University

Two-Year College

Adult Training



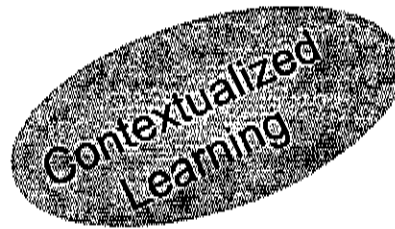
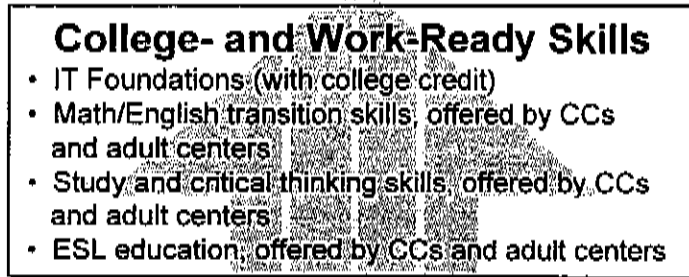
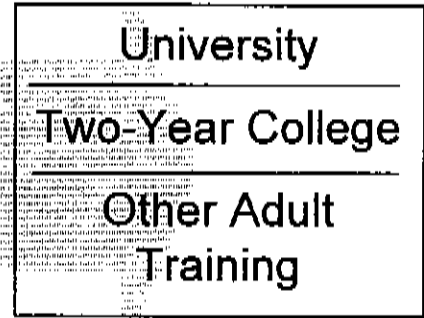
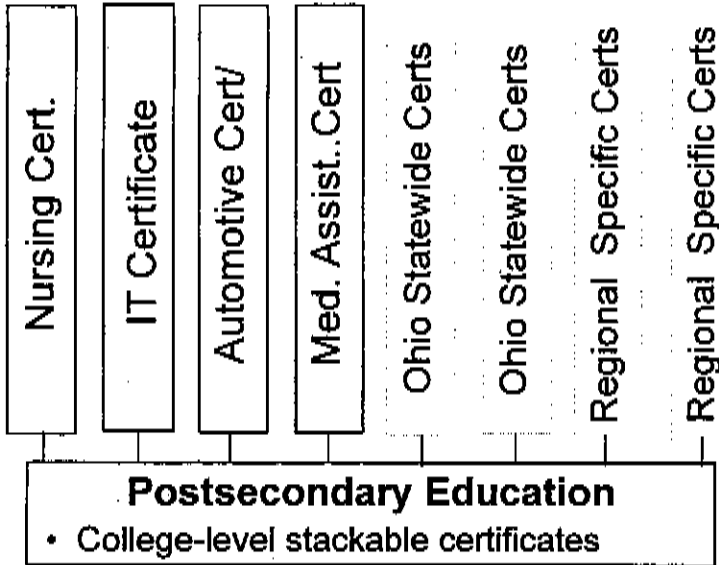
ABLE / GED

Time out of School

Grades 11 and 12

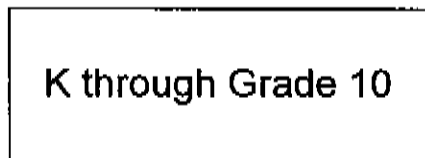
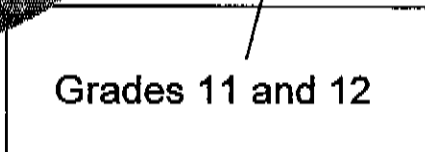
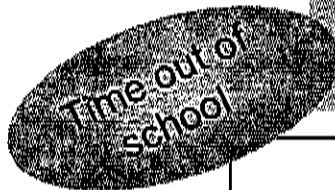
K through Grade 10

# Non-Traditional Pipeline



Skill development by multiple populations ... e.g., high school graduates, GED learners and ESL students ... along four dimensions:

- Math
- Reading
- Writing
- Language



# Stackables: A New Path for Adult Learners

## **The New Path**

- Separate from, but connected to traditional education
- Adults can see a transparent path to learning and skill development with an “open door” and drop-in and drop-out opportunities through their careers
- Ability to market in a way that is not possible now
- No-fail philosophy, together with flexibility and low-cost, which builds confidence
- Series of small steps with defined rewards build confidence for both student and the employer
- Avoids problem of career pathways that are localized and inhibit student transfer and flexibility
- The path is “fluid” recognizing that students can be at different levels in each of the skill areas – math, reading, writing and language
- ESL offered at all pre-college levels recognizing that it is a unique skill area
- Multiple assessments that could include ABLE and Work Keys

**Stackables:  
A New Path for  
Adult Learners**