

Young People Speak Out on High School vs. ABE

From Harassment to Safety

I always got harassed in school. No matter how hard I tried to make it stop, it would just get worse. Sometimes, it would get so bad, I would stop going to school all together. It's not that I did not want to learn, it's just that I needed to get away from there before things got out of control.

Now I am in an ABE program where the students and teachers make me feel safe and welcome. No one picks on me. People accept me, and so I can be myself. If it weren't for Project LIFT, I never would have gotten the education that I need to survive in this world.

Alicia J. Miner is a 17-year-old ABE student at Project LIFT in Hillsborough, NH.



Now I Know What's at Stake

High school was like kindergarten. People behaved poorly and we had no real responsibilities. I didn't know the meaning of the word "regret." In the GED classroom, I am responsible for myself. I have learned to stand up for myself. I

feel smart and I believe I am in charge of my future.

Jandira Rodrigues is a 21-year-old GED student at Pathway Technology Campus, a partnership between IBA and Bunker Hill Community College in Boston, MA.

In ABE, Different Learning Styles are Okay

I left high school because I did so poorly in 10th and 11th grade. I failed so many classes, I would not be able to graduate. Thank God for my mother who encouraged me to go to an ABE program. Now my education is back on track.

ABE is very different from regular high school. In an ABE class, the teacher takes into account all of our different learning styles. We break up into groups depending on what level we are at. Our ABE classes do not go on all day. With the shorter classes, we focus more on getting our work done instead of chatting or wasting time. Another advantage of ABE is that there are some older adults. They help motivate us younger adults to keep on getting our education.

Berenice Vergara is a student at Campbell Adult and Community Education in San Jose, CA.



No More Fights and Yelling

In high school, there were so many students. Teachers had a hard time controlling them. There was so much drama, fights, and skipping. Teachers did not seem to have time for their students. Sometimes they would ignore you, and other times they would yell at you even if you weren't doing anything wrong.

In ABE, there is more one-on-one help. There is less drama. The school day is shorter and more focused. The teachers have more patience with their students.



Joel Frenier is a student at the Adult Learning Center in Pittsfield, MA.

Older Adult Learners Inspire Us

I didn't finish high school when I was 18, so I got kicked out for being over age. High school was loud and crowded. The school day was long, but we didn't get much done. It was hard to concentrate. There was no tranquility in regular high school.

ABE is more tranquil. We spend less time in school, but we get more done. I get to work with my classmates when they ask me because they know that I like to help others when they are stuck or when they haven't been in the class-

room for a couple of days and need to catch up. We learn from each others' culture and history. The older adults teach us manners. They inspire us to come to school!



Elizabeth Corona Solorio is a 20-year-old student at Campbell Adult and Community Education in San Jose, CA.

Now I Can Ask for Help

When I was in high school, I hated school. I would never ask for help or like to read out loud. The whole class had to be rushed to be ready to take standardized tests at the same time.

In my ABE class, I feel more outspoken. I can ask for help. I read out loud and I don't feel embarrassed. I love coming to class because it makes me feel good about myself.



Lakisha Roberson is a student at Project Hope in Roxbury, MA.