

COVID-19 & ABE Updates

We'll begin at 3:30.

Everyone is currently muted to reduce background noise.

If you are having any tech issues, please chat to Karla Vien for assistance.

This PowerPoint and materials are posted at www.mnabe.org/state-abe-presentations.



COVID-19 & ABE Updates

Thursday, March 19, 2020

MDE – Adult Basic Education (ABE) Staff

Staff from Literacy Action Network (LAN) and MN ABE Distance Learning Team

Introductions

MDE Staff:

Todd Wagner, ABE State Director

Astrid Liden, Professional Development Specialist

Brad Hasskamp, Secondary Credential and Policy Specialist

Jodi Versaw, Program Quality Specialist

Julie Dincau, Transitions Specialist

Literacy Action Network and ABE Distance Learning Team members:

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt, Senior Manager Ed Technology Literacy Minnesota and Literacy Action Network President

Tom Cytron-Hysom, ABE Distance Learning Team, consultant to Literacy Minnesota

Please hold your questions until the Questions Section

When we get to the Q & A:



- Type using the webinar's chat function



- Raise your hand and ask over phone or headset during Q & A periods when unmuted



Ask Karla Vien if you have any tech questions or need technical assistance

Today's Topics

1. Updates and Announcements
2. ABE Funding
3. Distance Learning
4. Discussion: Ideas and positive practices from around the state
5. Questions

Resources from this webinar and earlier communications can be found online at:

www.mnabe.org/state-abe-presentations



GED Testing Service Update

Subject: Coronavirus/COVID-19 Communication from GED Testing Service

We understand that test centers, educators and GED students may be concerned about COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and how it may impact GED testing. At this time, many GED test centers in Minnesota are closed based on local school district closures. A limited number of private test centers, plus Corrections, are operating normally and are using standard precautions.

Test centers that deliver the GED are advised to make any closure decisions based upon information provided by local and state authorities and government agencies. Test centers that decide to close for any period of time should notify Pearson VUE immediately, so that they can cancel tests appointments and notify students of their test cancellations as quickly as possible. Test centers should call 1-866-389-3665, option #2 to report a closure.

Students who are impacted due to test center closures will receive notification that their test has been cancelled and their testing fees will be refunded. Students can reschedule their test on GED.com for when the testing site has reopened, or at another open test center.

We are committed to the safety of GED test-takers and test center workers. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide additional information as needed.

GED Age Waiver Challenge



If person and ABE program is choosing Option #6 (ABE program says the tester is ready via practice testing), how can the ABE program proctor the test?

- Virtual options via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime?
- Other person proctor on-site (e.g. parent)? Should be briefed/"trained" by ABE program staff before proctoring.

Likely may need to use GED Ready Test.

ABE program needs to obtain/verify GED Ready scores (via GED Manager or screenshot).

Contact Brad Hasskamp with additional questions.

GED Records Request Process

1. Complete **Records Request Form** at [Minnesota Department of Education website](http://education.mn.gov) (<http://education.mn.gov>), search for “GED Records Request” in the search box on the right side of the page
2. Submit form via:
 - A. **Email** to [Alice Smith](mailto:alice.smith@state.mn.us) (alice.smith@state.mn.us);
 - B. **Fax** to 651-582-8458; or
 - C. **Mail** to:
GED Office
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266
3. GED records will be sent out from our office via U.S. Mail, typically within three business days of receiving the request.



NO walk-ins or picking up GED records at the Minnesota Department of Education.

Guidance Sent by ABE Team

Email Tuesday, March 17 @ 3:30pm from Cherie Eichinger

[Executive Order 20-02](#) requires all public and charter schools in Minnesota be closed by Wednesday, March 18. This executive order does not specifically address closure of ABE programming, but based on our understanding of the intent of the order, and the public health concerns that prompted it, the Minnesota Department of Education Adult Basic Education (ABE) team **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** the following:

As of Wednesday, March 18, all in-person ABE programming across the state of Minnesota should be closed. This includes locations offering drop-in or one-room-classroom type services. ALL in-person ABE programming should be closed to students, including those not located within a school building. ABE providers should encourage their students to stay home when they would have been attending ABE programming.

Exception: Corrections

ABE programming located within a correctional facility should work with the leadership of that facility to determine the best strategies for student safety. This applies to both the state correctional system and local or county jails.



Goals in Response to COVID-19

Goals:

1. Safety of ABE students, ABE staff and our communities
2. Best possible service for ABE students throughout any program closures and disruptions
3. Support for ABE programs and staff across the field

What does this mean for my program?

Serving students safely (and at a distance) is more important than worrying about counting contact hours.

This is a great time to explore new ways to serve students. Support (with pay) your staff in developing new ways to serve students.

Some of the ways you might serve students may not count for ABE contact hours and that is okay!

What does this mean for my ABE program budget and staff?

ABE program funding awards have been made for this current fiscal year (2019-2020). These funds go through June 30, 2020.

Nothing happening now affects your current year's ABE funding from MDE.

ABE program staff should not be laid off this fiscal year due to COVID-19.

ABE funds have to be used to serve ABE students and/or for ABE programming purposes (e.g. not for K-12 or early childhood).

LAN Priorities in the Time of COVID-19

Develop and support forward looking legislative agenda to meet rapidly changing needs

Support ABE staff statewide

Help develop and promote capacity to serve learners in a changing environment

Updated LAN Legislative Platform

1. Change the contact hours reporting period for this year: **Hold programs harmless** from the unprecedented COVID 19 disruption in service, by **adjusting the contact hours reporting period for program year 2019-20** to 3/15/2019 to 3/14/2020 for purposes of allocating FY21 funding.
2. Request \$3 M supplementary funding request for next year, given likely significant growth in learners due to recession
3. Implement ongoing growth factor of K-12 formula aid or growth in contact hours up to 3%, whichever is greater

LAN Legislative Action Plan

1. Formal platform document forthcoming
2. We will encourage all LAN members and other ABE to contact their state senators and legislators
3. Our lobbyist will inform how we proceed further

ABE Funding

Key Message: try not to worry about funding!

Total State ABE Aid

Total State Aid for this current fiscal year (2019-2020) is \$49,000,000

Total State Aid for the upcoming fiscal year (2020-2021), if there is no change in statute, will be \$49,000,000

** with a 3% increase, total funding will be \$50,500,000



Funding Shared Across State



Note: The total amount of State ABE funding available to the statewide system does not depend on the number of contact hours.

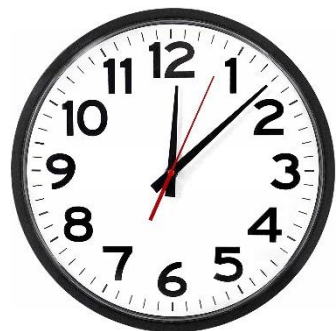
The total amount of state ABE funding is divided between 41 ABE consortia.

Contact hours are the largest piece of the formula that determines how the funding is divided.

State ABE Funding Formula

Total State ABE aid is divided up among ABE consortia based on four factors:

- 1) Population
- 2) K-12 LEP counts
- 3) Over 25-no diploma counts
- 4) Contact hours
 - Contact hours is the largest factor, and the most variable



What happens when contact hours go down statewide?

Recent example:

Contact hours from May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018: **4,900,000**

Contact hour rate for Fiscal Year 19= **\$6.50**

THEN..... The polar vortex!!!

Contact hours from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019: **4,500,000**

Contact Hour rate for Fiscal Year 20 = **\$7.30**



Effect of a statewide decline in hours

Last year:

Statewide contact hours declined 9.5%.



Contact hour rate increased 12%.



More than 73% of consortia received the same or more state ABE funding than the previous year.

Example effect of a statewide decline in hours

Last year:

Statewide contact hours declined 9.5%.



Contact hour rate increased 12%.



Example ABE consortium:

2017-18: 10,000 contact hours x \$6.50 = \$65,000 for fiscal year 2019

2018-19: 9,000 contact hours x \$7.30 = \$65,700 for fiscal year 2020

What if my consortium's drop in funding is more significant?



State statute allows for adjustment in state ABE aid for “service disruption” (See MN State Statute 124D.518, Subd 4A).

Consortia may apply for this if contact hour revenue declines at least 10% from FY20 to FY21.

Summary of ABE Funding

LAN is advocating on behalf of our statewide ABE system at the legislative level.

We will communicate outcomes of that advocacy as we know them, but in the meantime remember:

- A statewide decline in contact hours will not affect the total amount of funding statewide.
- An individual consortium that has a significant decline in contact hour funding can apply for an adjustment based on “service disruption”.

Key Message 1: funding

Provide ABE instruction at a distance with as much access and quality as possible.

Build your staff's capacity to serve students at a distance.

Don't worry about funding.

Key Message 2: contact hours

Provide all the instructional opportunities to your students, in all the ways you can, regardless of whether or not you can count contact hours for those activities.

Don't worry about a decline in contact hours.

Recording contact hours

Record **contact hours** in SiD for real-time instruction at a distance.

Record **proxy hours** in SiD for approved Distance Learning platforms.

Continuing to provide educational services

We want you to find ways to help your ABE students continue learning!

Some ways that can be entered as contact or proxy hours in SiD:

- Deliver ABE instruction using Skype, Zoom or another platform
- Online learning with currently approved distance learning platforms
- Instruction via phone

Some ways that can't be entered as contact or proxy hours in SiD (and that is OKAY!):

- Online learning using distance learning platforms that are not currently approved
- Check in phone calls to find out how students are doing or give program updates
- Emails
- Text messages
- Snail mail (handouts, worksheets, textbooks, packets, etc.)

Entering data in SiD

- No more than 12 hours can be entered for a student with no pre-test
 - You do not have to stop delivering distance instruction to the student in this scenario
- Synchronous instruction to individual students or groups (e.g. via Skype, Zoom or phone call) should be recorded in SiD as contact hours (not proxy hours)
 - Please create new classes in SiD for this. Use “Online ” in the class name, and indicate the software/platform as well as the instructional content/focus (Examples: “Online Skype Beginning ESL” or “Online Zoom GED Prep”)
- Proxy hours for approved distance learning platforms should be entered as they always have been

Assessment and Program Improvement

We recognize:

- For now, you will not be able to post-test students.
- This will impact MSGs for this year.

We commit to taking these factors into account when determining Program Improvement processes for next year.

Distance Learning Updates

Tom Cytron-Hysom and Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt

Distance Learning Support Priorities

- Provide support in providing quality DL during rapidly changing times
- Provide relevant PD
- Identify and disseminate resources to the field
- Respond to evolving needs: Review and make recommendations to MDE ABE staff regarding policy and practice
- Approve time-on-task platform requests quickly

Internet Accessibility

If your students need internet access while schools are closed, most telecom companies are offering several free months or similar discounts for new and/or low-income customers:

CenturyLink: <https://edmn.me/33oiMay>

Charter: <https://edmn.me/39YG9Kt>

Xfinity/Comcast: <https://edmn.me/33B6LyV>

Distance Learning Update: Resources

ABE DL Resource site - bit.ly/tipsforDL (EdTech)

Free and Low Cost Internet Plans -<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans/> (NDIA)

Distance Learning Update: Platform Approval

Request approval of new DL platforms on this [Google form](#)

(Form can also be found at: <http://mnabe-distancelearning.org/approved-dl-platforms>)

DL Support staff will review within a few days

Final approval often within a week, if all requested information is provided – please be accurate and complete!

Distance Learning: Other Updates

Consider using Google Forms for developing online student applications/intake information

[Adam Kieffer](mailto:adam.kieffer@spps.org) (adam.kieffer@spps.org) can provide information and technical assistance



New COVID-19 and Distance Education Resource Hub

New Schoology group designed to:

- centralize resources being shared around COVID-19 and its impact on MN adult education programs
- facilitate the sharing of questions, resources, and ideas for continuing to serve learners at a distance


To join:


1. If you don't already have a Schoology account, go to www.schoology.com and sign up as an **Instructor**.
2. Once you are in your account, go to the top blue bar, choose **Groups**, and then click **My Groups** on the right.
3. Click **Join a Group** and then enter the group access code **4PQM-9XNK-FRF7X**.
4. Click the **Join** button.


Updates & Notifications


 **Minnesota Adult Education**


Group Options

 **Updates**

 Discussions (7)

 Albums

 Members (16)

 Resources





































Information [Edit](#)

A place to centralize resources being shared around COVID-19 and its impact on MN adult education programs and to facilitate the sharing of questions, resources, and ideas among MN adult ed practitioners, support network providers, and state staff.


Category
Professional Groups

COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub

Hamline University










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Discussions


Group Options
Updates
Discussions (7)
Albums
Members (15)
Resources
Information Edit
A place to centralize resources being shared around COVID-19 and its impact on MN adult education programs and to facilitate the sharing of questions, resources, and ideas among MN adult ed practitioners, support network providers, and state staff.
Category
Professional Groups

COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub Discussions

Add Discussion Reorder
















-  **Asynchronous Distance Learning Using DL Platforms** 
1 post · Created by Astrid Liden today at 9:34 am
-  **Synchronous Distance Education** 
1 post · Created by Astrid Liden today at 9:35 am
-  **Teaching about Coronavirus and COVID-19**
0 posts · Created by Astrid Liden today at 9:35 am
-  **Free Instructional Resources**
2 posts · Created by Kristine Kelly today at 9:35 am
-  **Programmatic Issues, Questions, and Ideas**
0 posts · Created by Astrid Liden today at 9:36 am
-  **Community Resources** 
4 posts · Created by Astrid Liden today at 9:49 am


Group Options
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Category
Professional Groups
Leave this group

Synchronous Distance Education

Created by Astrid Liden today at 9:35 am

Spellcheck

 **B** *I* U              

 **Elizabeth Bennett** Today at 1:04 pm
I really want to try some "live" classes (probably via Google Hangouts Meet) next week, but I'm participate because of slow or no internet connections. These articles gave me some good foo
<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/brightspace/2020/03/17/low-bandwidth-teaching-tools-on-brightsp>
<https://www.iddblog.org/videoconferencing-alternatives-how-low-bandwidth-teaching-will-save>
How are you creating accessible, interactive learning opportunities for your students?
Show Less
Like · Reply





Resources

Minnesota Adult Education

COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub

Resources

Add Resources Options

Title
 Distance Learning Resources related to ASYNCHRONOUS distance learning platfo and teachers follow up at a later time. These include all Minne Moby Max, Edmentum, Khan Academy, and Northstar Online L Added by Elizabeth Bennett · Mar 19, 2020
 Synchronous Distance Education Resources related to teaching students from a distance in "rea Google Hangouts/Meet/Duo, FaceTime, Skype, WhatsApp, Face phone calls and texting. Added by Elizabeth Bennett · Mar 19, 2020
 Instructional Resources Related to COVID-19 Added by Elizabeth Bennett · Mar 19, 2020
 FREE Instructional Resources for Various Subjects Added by Elizabeth Bennett · Mar 19, 2020

Group Options

- Updates
- Discussions (7)
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Resources

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Category Professional Groups

Minnesota Adult Education

COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub

Resources > Instructional Resources Related to COVID-19

Add Resources Options

Title
 Basic information, articles, math and science, and more! http://www.collectedny.org/2020/03/teaching-about-coronavirus/ Added by Lindsey Cermak · Mar 19, 2020
 Specific to ESOL http://www.collectedny.org/2020/03/esol-resources-for-healthy-practices-in-covid-ti Added by Lindsey Cermak · Mar 19, 2020
 Coronavirus Lesson Plans and Resources from AFT Share My Lesson https://sharemylesson.com/collections/coronavirus Added by Stephanie Sommers · Mar 19, 2020

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Category Professional Groups



Discussion



**What great ideas or positive practices
are you exploring or seeing?**

**What additional
questions do you have?**

Thank you!

Resources from this webinar and earlier communications can be found online at:

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