

COVID-19 & ABE Updates

We'll begin at 1:30.

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 26, 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:

Karla Vien, Literacy Action Network Staff

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. Resources & Professional Development
3. Distance Learning
4. LAN update
5. ABE Grants
6. Partner Updates
7. Discussion: Ideas and positive practices from around the state
8. Questions

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

www.mnabe.org/state-abe-presentations



Updates and Announcements

Todd Wagner
Brad Hasskamp

Governors' Executive Orders (3/25/20)

20-19: School Distance Learning Period

- Public school buildings and facilities must be closed through May 4; schools must offer distance learning
- This applies to ABE

20-20: Stay at Home

- Friday, March 27 - Friday, April 10
- Starts at end of day 11:59pm

Governor's Executive Orders:

<https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp>

GED Testing in Minnesota

MN GED testing centers closed until at least April 10

- Based on Governor's Executive Order 20-20
- Potential exception with testing centers in corrections

From April 11-May 4: All public schools must be closed, meaning those GED testing centers will also presumably be closed.

- Based on Governor's Executive Order 20-19

Please email Brad Hasskamp if you have any updates about your GED testing.

Survey: COVID-19 and ABE Programming



Please complete by Tuesday, March 31 at 4:00pm

- Sent by Cherie on Tuesday, March 24
- Ideally: We would like everyone (all ABE staff in your consortium or program) to complete
- Questions for all and some specific questions for administrators and consortium managers
- Should take less than 15 minutes
- Overall results will be reviewed by MDE and Support Network

Link to the survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABECOVID19

Resources & Professional Development

Astrid Liden



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

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UPGRADE

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GROUPS

RESOURCES

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▼ 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 👤

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Post

Most Recent




Wendy Sweeney

We just added a section on PANDA's website with mental health crisis numbers, phone apps and other resources to help teachers or students who may need support. There are links that follow with tips on how to manage anxiety during this uncertain time. Here is the link:

<https://mn.abedisabilities.org/mental-health/resources-6/>

Today at 1:24 pm [Comment](#) · [Like](#)



Astrid Liden

Welcome to the COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub for Minnesota ABE! Let's come together as a field to share resources & ideas, ask questions, and support each other as we find innovative ways to continue serving our students during this challenging time.

General updates or questions can be posted here in the updates section, but we encourage you to go the Discussions tab (on the...

[Show More](#)

Notifications

Email Notification Settings:

☒ Group update posted

☒ Group comments on updates or discussions

☒ Comments on my posts

☒ User joins your group

☒ Group content created

Save Changes

Cancel

Discussions

Minnesota Adult Education

COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub

Discussions

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Discussions (7)

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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

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

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Discussions (7)

Albums

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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

[Leave this group](#)

Synchronous Distance Education

Created by Astrid Liden today at 9:35 am

Spellcheck

B I U 12

[Post](#) [Cancel](#)

[Highlight User](#) 1 Post 1

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-brights>

<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](#)

Adding a Discussion Thread

choology™ UPGRADE COURSES GROUPS RESOURCES

Minnesota Adult Education

▼ Group Options

Updates

Discussions (10)

Albums



Members (186)



Resources



Information Edit



COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub

Discussions

 **Add Discussion**  Reorder

 **Asynchronous Distance Learning Using DL Platforms** 
6 posts · Created by Astrid Liden Thu Mar 19, 2020 at 9:34 am












 **Synchronous Distance Education** 
8 posts · Created by Astrid Liden Thu Mar 19, 2020 at 9:35 am




 **Teaching about Coronavirus and COVID-19** 
2 posts · Created by Astrid Liden Thu Mar 19, 2020 at 9:35 am

Create Discussion ✕

Title: *

Description:


B I U   **A**         

Create **Cancel**

Created by Kristine Kelly Thu Mar 19, 2020 at 9:35 am

Resources



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

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)
- 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

Resources

[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

Uploading a Resource

The screenshot displays the Canvas LMS interface for the 'Minnesota Adult Education' group. The top navigation bar includes 'hoology', 'UPGRADE', 'COURSES', 'GROUPS', and 'RESOURCES'. The left sidebar shows group options like 'Updates', 'Discussions (10)', 'Albums', and 'Members (186)', with 'Resources' selected. The main content area is titled 'COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub' and 'Resources > General Community Resources for All S'. A red circle highlights the 'Add Resources' button, and a red arrow points to its expanded dropdown menu on the right. The dropdown menu lists various resource types: Add Folder, Add Assignment Template, Add Test/Quiz Template, Add File, Add Link, Add Discussion Template, Add Page, Add External Tool, Add Package, Add Rubric, Add Badge, Add Question Bank, and Copy from Resources. The background shows a list of resources, including a PDF titled 'COVID19 Checklist for Famlies, from American Federation of' and a link titled 'Talking to Children about Coronavirus, from CDC'.

hoology UPGRADE COURSES GROUPS RESOURCES

Minnesota Adult Education

Group Options

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Resources

Information Edit

COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub

Resources > General Community Resources for All S

Add Resources Options

- Add Folder
- Add Assignment Template
- Add Test/Quiz Template
- Add File
- Add Link
- Add Discussion Template
- Add Page
- Add External Tool
- Add Package
- Add Rubric
- Add Badge
- Add Question Bank
- Copy from Resources

Title

COVID19 Checklist for Famlies, from American Federation of
Added by Patsy Egan · Mar 19, 2020

Talking to Children about Coronavirus, from CDC
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcar>
Added by Patsy Egan · Mar 19, 2020

GED Tuesdays for Teachers Webinar

Topic: Working at a Distance – Helping Students Continue Their Progress Toward the GED Test During the Time of Social Distancing

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

2:30 – 4:00 PM CT

Hosted by GED Testing Service



What can you do to help your students at this very trying time? They will:

- Discuss options for helping keep students on track: online programs and other strategies.
- Share best practices and resources. Please share if you have a process, strategy, or product.

[Register now to reserve your spot.](#)

If you have any questions, contact communications@ged.com.

ATLAS Events

- Check the Events calendar for in-person event updates, but in general all March-April and early May in person events have been cancelled or postponed
- The May 8 CCRS Instructional Leadership Summit WILL be held as a *virtual* conference, and registration is open!



ATLAS Webinars

Some regional sessions are being redesigned as webinars for later this spring

- Two will be around re-licensure areas
- Topics likely to include: Reading, English Learners, Numeracy



Coming soon:

ABE Teacher Virtual Coffee Breaks!

- Connect with colleagues & ATLAS staff around teaching reading, math, and standards at a distance





MN ABE CONNECT

Brought to you by the Minnesota Adult Education Support Network:

ATLAS | Literacy Action Network | Literacy Minnesota | Minnesota
Association of Workforce Boards | PANDA – MN ABE Disability Specialists |
Southwest Adult Basic Education

Stay connected!

- Read your newsletter! This week's (and often in the weeks to come) articles have excellent ideas for teaching and learning in our new normal for ABE.
- Continue to communicate with your ATLAS colleagues as questions arise. They are there to support you!

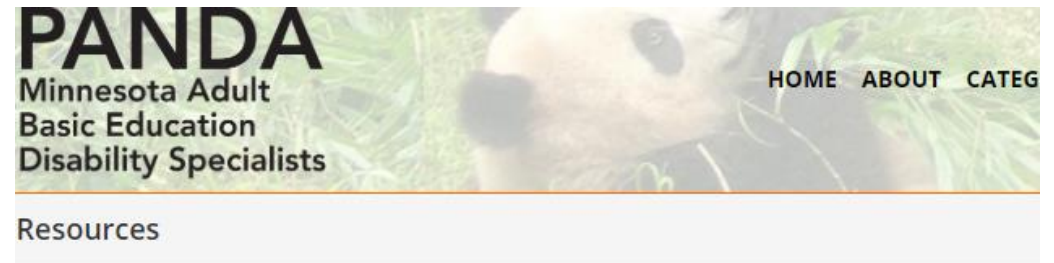
PANDA: Mental Health Resources

Mental health resources on [PANDA website](#)

COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Guide:

- Info about crisis line numbers, telehealth services, cell phone apps to reduce anxiety and other mental health resources

Other links with tips on how to manage stress during this difficult time



The COVID-19 (also called coronavirus) pandemic has created fear and uncertainty in Minnesota and around the world about our safety, health and future which may impact people's mental health. It is important to remember we are all in this together and we will get through this together. Reach out to someone in need to help them connect in this time of social isolation. Make sure to take care of yourself as well.

If anyone needs help to reduce anxiety and stress in this changing time, the following list of resources has free crisis lines, phone apps, telehealth and in-person mental health resources. The links that follow offer more information with tips on how to ease anxiety and stress.

Click below for a COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Guide

[COVID-19 Mental Health Crisis Lines, Apps and Other Mental Health Resources for Teachers and Students](#)

Other helpful links to articles about managing anxiety during COVID-19

American Psychological Association

Keeping Your Distance to Stay Safe <https://www.apa.org/practice/programs/dmhi/research-information/social-distancing>

How to keep COVID-19 fears from affecting your mental health:

https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/14/health/coronavirus-fears-mental-health-wellness-trnd/index.html?fbclid=IwAR2pBP7wjGgIYJCQKiKDC3ip_RuXy5UiY2L5hdCu7OI6E01xYjtlCqEa_o

Taking care of your mental health in the face of uncertainty:

<https://afsp.org/taking-care-of-your-mental-health-in-the-face-of-uncertainty/>

PANDA: Mental Health Trainings

Free online mental health courses online at <https://online.themlc.org/>:

- Suicide Prevention for Adult Educators
- Reducing the Stigma of Mental Health

*Courses designed to meet relicensure requirements



Other online or webinar mental health trainings are in process. Stay tuned!

PANDA staff are available for calls and emails!!

Distance Learning

Tom Cytron-Hysom

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt

Distance Learning Update: Resources

New ABE DL Resource site - [Tips for Distance Learning](#) (EdTech - resources to help adult basic skills programs scale up or launch distance education programs)

Weekly webinars, 12-1 p.m., every Friday, featuring lightning talks about LINCS resources and guidance on choosing online curricula. Here is the [link to register](#)

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

Distance Learning Update: Platforms

Please focus on serving learners, not contact hour funding.

- Please do not submit requests for approval of teacher created content, except for full courses in an LMS – we have no way at present to approve other types of teacher created content.
- Use any and all distance learning tools with learners, regardless of whether they are approved for proxy hours.
- Before submitting new platform requests, **please look at the list of those already approved**. There are over 30, and it's likely one of these will meet your needs!

Distance Learning Update: Northstar

- You can now Proctor assessments online at a distance – procedures were released this week.
- Northstar Online Learning work by students is approved for time-on-task proxy hours.
- You can now bulk-create student accounts in the Northstar LMS, using a spreadsheet.



Distance Learning Support: Getting Help

- Please use this email:

support@mnabedistancelearning.zendesk.com

- When you contact DL team members at their individual emails, it can delay responses!

Updated LAN Legislative Platform: Call to Action



Advocating for Minnesota
Adult Basic Education

Please contact your state legislators and request the following:

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.

ABE Grants

Jodi Versaw

Julie Dincau

Due Dates Have Not Currently Been Adjusted



- Annual ABE Grant Applications
- Five-Year ABE Narratives
- IELCE Reports
- Regional Transitions Plans

If there are any adjustments, we will let you know.

Reminders about Annual Grant Application

The annual grant application will be due on June 1, as usual.

One application must be completed by each ABE consortium.

- The fiscal agent entity within the consortium is responsible to submit the application

The grant application materials should be posted by mid-April.

More information and explanation at the Annual Grant Application Workshop.



Annual Grant Application Workshop



Two ways to participate!

- We are working to create a recorded version that will be posted online for people to watch
- WebChat on May 6 (1:30-3)

Table A

Table A is crucial because MDE uses the hours reported on Table A for each consortium to calculate the distribution of state and federal funding.

	A	B	C
1	Consortium Name:		
2	Table A (May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020)		
3	Total Enrollment & Contact Hours		
4	Enter the number of enrollees and their total contact hours.		
5	Educational Functioning Level at Entry	Number of Enrollees	Total Contact Hours
6		(any # of hrs)	For Enrollees
7	A	B	C
8	1. ABE 1		
9	2. ABE 2		
10	3. ABE 3		

New this year: Table A1

Necessary because of proposed adjustment to contact hour reporting period

Consortium Name: <input type="text"/>		
Table A1 (March 14, 2019 - March 13, 2020)		
Total Enrollment & Contact Hours		
Enter the number of enrollees and their total contact hours.		
Educational Functioning Level at Entry A	Number of Enrollees (any # of hrs) B	Total Contact Hours For Enrollees C
1. ABE 1		
2. ABE 2		
3. ABE 3		
4. ABE 4		
5. ABE 5		
6. ABE 6		

Table A in SiD

Adjust the dates in SiD to get correct data for Tables A and A1

The screenshot shows the SiD search interface. Two red circles highlight the 'Start Date' and 'End Date' fields. The 'Start Date' is set to 3/13/2019 and the 'End Date' is set to 3/14/2020. Other fields include 'Site' (Sandbox), 'Class' (All Classes), 'Funding Source' (All Funding Sources), 'Sub Site' (All SubSites), 'Class Grants Like' (NULL), and 'Minimum # of Hours' (0). A 'View Report' button is on the right. At the bottom, there is a pagination bar showing '1 of 1' and a search bar.

Table A - Total Enrollment & Contact Hours

Sandbox: 3/13/2019 - 3/14/2020

All SubSites **

All Classes

Funding Source: All Funding Sources, Grants:

Pre Test EFL	# of Distinct	Hours
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Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) Grantees

- In person site visits have been canceled through the end of May.
- Currently considering virtual visits but these would not happen until May
- Continue programming as much as possible
- If all the funds are not spent this will not impact your grant that will begin this upcoming 2020-2021 year

Regional Transitions Plans

- Continue the activities that have been written into the plan
- If that isn't possible then repurpose the funds for a transitions activity that can take place
- Changes to the plan need to be documented on the final page of the plan and sent to julie.dincau@state.mn.us

Partner Updates

Julie Dincau

State Partner Program Updates

An email went out yesterday with some updates on:

- ACCUPLACER proctoring online
- SNAP
- No guidance from DEED yet on P2P grants

There are a lot of unknowns at the moment, especially with P2P and MFIP.

Additional updates will be sent as soon as possible.



Discussion



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

What additional questions do you have?

Next check-in webinar

Friday, April 3

10:00-11:30

[Register Here](#)

Thank you!

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

www.mnabe.org/state-abe-presentations

