

Overview of Adult Basic Education (ABE) in Minnesota

2017-18 Program Year (Revised June 2019)

The mission of Adult Basic Education in Minnesota is to provide adults with educational opportunities to acquire and improve their literacy skills necessary to become self-sufficient and to participate effectively as productive workers, family members, and citizens.

ABE PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE

- **GED® (General Educational Development Diploma):** National high school equivalency assessment operated by GED Testing Service that includes a set of 4 tests: Math, Reasoning through Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.
- **Local Credit Completion Adult High School Diploma:** Instructional programs for eligible adults leading to a high school diploma from a local Minnesota public school district.
- **State Competency-Based Adult High School Diploma:** Portfolio-based high school diploma completion programs for adults that embed prior experience, scores standardized assessment, ABE instruction and applied learning.
- **ESL (English as a Second Language):** Instruction for learners whose native language is not English.
- **Basic Skills Enhancement:** Elementary or secondary level basic skill building, such as work-related math, functional literacy (e.g.- banking skills), reading or writing assistance.
- **Family Literacy:** Instructional programs for adults and their pre-school age children. Features instruction for adults in literacy, math and/or ESL, instruction in parenting, and educational/developmental services for kids.
- **Integrated English Language and Civics Education (IELCE):** Civics education includes ESL, work readiness and contextualized career skills to encourage full participation in U.S. communities and employment.

ABE INITIATIVES AND PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS

- **Adult Career Pathways: Preparing Adults for Postsecondary Education, Training, Employment and Workforce Education.** Pre-employment programs to provide basic skills necessary for work or post-secondary. Provided at local ABE sites, WorkForce Centers, onsite at local employers and/or on campus of postsecondary institutions. Combines basic skills instruction, counseling, and college and/or workforce prep skills to prepare students for postsecondary success in credit bearing or credentialed programs and occupational programs at postsecondary institutions.
- **Distance Learning and Digital Literacy: Building Adults' Technology Skills.** Digital literacy certification and numerous distance learning options to build reading, writing, math, employability and computer skills.

ABE INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT

Core Content	Conditional Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Mathematics • Speaking • Listening • ESL/ELL/ESOL • GED/Adult High School Diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship/civics • Foundational technology skills • Transition to higher education • Employment readiness/workforce education • Knowing how to learn and solve problems • Personal, group and societal effectiveness • Study skills

ELIGIBILITY

Must be 17 and over, not enrolled in a K-12 school, and seeking a high school credential or lacking skills in any of the basic academic areas including reading, math, writing and/or speaking English.

ABE STUDENT INFORMATION

61,822 ABE Enrollees from May 2017-April 2018

ESL	47%	Unemployed	24%
Conditional Work Referrals	3%	No Prior Schooling	9%
In Corrections	16%		

The average participant in Minnesota's ABE system received 135 hours of instruction in 2017-2018.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Adult Basic Education addresses a variety of learner goals. ABE helps learners to:

- Attain employment and/or better their current employment in order to become self-sufficient;
- Achieve high school equivalency (GED or Adult High School Diploma);
- Attain skills and certificates necessary to enter postsecondary education and training;
- Learn to speak, read and write the English language;
- Master basic academic skills to help their children succeed in school;
- Become U.S. citizens and participate in their local communities; and
- Gain self-esteem, personal confidence and sense of personal and civic responsibility.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) funded 43 ABE consortia that serve the entire state. Consortia deliver programming at schools, workforce centers, colleges, prisons/jails, libraries, tribal centers, and non-profit organizations. Consortia hire **more than 1,400 staff** (licensed teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors and administrators) and work with more than **2,200 trained volunteers** to provide high quality instruction. **71% of paid instructors are part-time.**

STAFF DEVELOPMENT & PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

Three percent of the state ABE appropriation supports services that address the needs of ABE programs across the state. Using these funds, the state ABE office awards grants to organizations in the areas of professional development, volunteer training, distance learning, educational technology, disabilities, assessment, workforce collaborations, and program quality.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION LAW

ABE operates under both state and federal law. State law (89% of ABE funding) is MN State Statute 124D.51-52. No operating or administrative funding is provided to MDE under state ABE appropriation. Federal funds are provided under Title II ("Adult Education and Family Literacy Act" or AEFLA) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING

State ABE funds are distributed to consortia using a formula that integrates school district population, LEP counts, census no-diploma data, and prior year learner contact hours. Federal ABE funds are distributed based on prior year learner contact hours. Integrated English Language and Civics Education (IELCE) funds are awarded using a competitive RFP process.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
State ABE Aid	\$48,047,113	\$48,625,120	\$49,039,610	\$49,033,163	\$49,145,902
Federal ABE Aid	\$4,697,800	\$4,846,810	\$5,030,979	\$5,006,971	\$5,612,645
Federal Aid for IELCE (Civics)	\$913,791	\$932,399	\$930,673	\$943,569	\$995,535
Total	\$53,658,704	\$54,404,329	\$55,001,262	\$54,983,703	\$55,754,082
Enrollment	65,831	66,314	64,878	61,822	
Student Contact Hours	5,571,308	5,497,385	5,302,063	4,929,613	
Average Annual Cost/Enrollee	\$815	\$820	\$847	\$889	