

2017 Legislative Platform

The LAN Board has adopted a 2017 legislative platform designed to add financial resources to ABE programs in Minnesota. The platform was developed over several months of thought and feedback from the LAN Membership.



LAN Initiative:

Since 2001, the contact hour rate has remained virtually unchanged - **\$5.72 in 2001 vs. \$5.86 this year**. The inflation rate during this time period has been more than **36%**. The overall impact has been a significant decrease in funding to support needed ABE services.

The proposed platform addresses this shortfall by increasing resources for all consortia, and by ensuring that Community Based Organizations – which now provide 19% of contact hours statewide, but receive no base funding – receive some funding to supplement the contact hour rate, which is the only formula funding they receive.

There are two planks in the platform:

- Add \$2 M per year to the ABE formula for consortia statewide, increasing overall consortia funding to address the shortfall in federal funding, providing funding for such things as enhanced technology infrastructure for students, increased development of distance learning, and enhanced wrap-around support services for learners.
- Add \$2 M per year to increase contact hour funding for all state approved CBOs to a level approaching the lowest public school consortia.



LAN is Monitoring:

LAN Response to Secondary Credentialing Proposal:

Any statutory change to redefine state approved high school equivalency tests beyond the GED must include:

- Adequate funding to facilitate statewide implementation by MDE ABE staff, and locally at the program level.
- A means to consider for approval any potential secondary credential test(s) that includes input from both ABE professionals at the program level, as well as MDE ABE staff.

LAN Supports:

LAN is in favor of continued funding to help defray the cost of secondary credential testing, as outlined in the Governor's budget.