

Adult Basic Education in Minnesota



Preparing low-skilled adults for Employment and Higher Education

Helping individuals, family, and the economy

Adult Basic Education (ABE) provides core education services to low-skilled adults in Minnesota, including GED preparation for individuals who did not complete high school, English as a Second Language for refugees and immigrants, and workforce education.



Over the past several years, Minnesota ABE has retooled to focus more strongly on

helping low-skilled adults prepare for employment and higher education. FastTRAC, developed collaboratively with DEED and MnSCU, offers a variety of career pathways developed to help learners progress into jobs and careers in such areas as medical services, childcare, and commercial truck driving. These programs lead to a variety of certificates and credentials directly related to employment.

ABE has also developed a focus on using technology to improve service delivery. Over the past three years, development of comprehensive distance learning throughout Minnesota has expanded educational opportunities for low-skilled

adults to more quickly master basic skills, while also developing the technological expertise required in today's workplace.

ABE is provided throughout Minnesota via a network of nearly 50 consortia that include local school districts, non-profits, and other organizations. Because consortia operate 'close to the ground,' ABE can re-tool quickly in response to local conditions:

- ★ When local businesses lay off workers, **ABE can focus resources** on helping laid off workers develop skills needed for re-employment.
- ★ When large numbers of refugees are re-settled in Minnesota by aid agencies, **ABE can quickly add ESL classes** to serve these New Americans.
- ★ When local employers need to upgrade their workforce, **ABE can provide specialized services on-site.**

How did ABE services help over 78,000 Minnesotans last year?



ESL - 31,781 (40%)

English as a Second Language (ESL) works with immigrants whose native language is not English. Students develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills to effectively communicate in their workplaces and communities.



Basic Skills - 28,145 (36%)

Basic Skills helps students develop basic skills below the high school graduation level in math, reading, and writing. Once these basic skills are mastered, students can prepare to take the GED.



GED/Adult Diploma - 11,681 (15%)

The **GED** allows people lacking a high school diploma to earn a General Equivalency (GED) diploma. The GED tests assess the academic skills generally required of a Minnesota high school graduate.



Workforce Education - 3,333 (6%)

Workforce Education helps adults build literacy skills needed to obtain, retain, or improve employment. Services are provided at businesses, to improve the skills of current employees. Employment Readiness programs help individuals gain skills essential in the workplace, to help them find and retain jobs.



Other - 1,362 (2%)

Citizenship Preparation, English Language Civics, and Family Literacy build civic engagement and strong families.