

TRANSCRIPTION OF ABE ADULT DIPLOMA VIDEO

Today we are going to talk about a new option for completing your high diploma. The new option for finishing high school is the Minnesota Standard Adult High School Diploma.

The adult diploma program is a new pathway for adults to get a high school credential that's based on competencies. Students can meet competencies by using high school credits from their former schooling, college classes they have taken, they can take classes in adult basic education programs to improve their competencies, so there is a number of ways they can prove competencies besides just a timed test like the GED.

We created this program because we felt adults needed another pathway. We have a real diverse population in ABE. Adults of different ages, different socio-economic backgrounds, many many immigrant learners and not all are successful on a timed test like the GED. And for some adults it would mean going back and repeating all of high school to earn all of the credits needed. And we know that our adults have picked up valuable skills and experience in their lives where they can use a combination of evidence to prove they have met the competencies that we believe show that they should be awarded a diploma from the state of Minnesota. The impact of this is that we want to get more of our adult students onto post-secondary training, the workplace, better jobs, better pay, better benefits or to get them on other training, apprenticeship or college opportunities so they can realize their goals.

Are you eligible for a diploma? You must meet be 19 years or older to have a diploma granted in the state of Minnesota.

Minnesota Standard Diploma is for people 19 years of age or older. It's for people who have life experience that they want to document and get credit for. When students decide to sign up for that, they need to gather evidence of their background. They need to gather past high school transcripts, if they have ever been to college, maybe college transcripts, evidence of their work experience and be able to bring forward some of that evidence so that it can be counted towards their diploma.

One of the exciting things about the Minnesota Standard Adult Diploma is that the standards are consistent throughout the state. So if you are in one adult education program and you get a good start on your diploma and then you move to somewhere else, you take it with you. You're creating a portfolio of experiences and documenting that learning so as you move the portfolio moves with you so you can finish it somewhere else. So it's important for adults because adults get a lot of changes in their lives and need to move for jobs, for family, for opportunities and this provides the opportunity to take it with them.

The teachers were amazing. They gave me good advice and just kept encouraging me to keep going and keep doing what I needed to do to get through this process. This is a great program that the teachers are going to be with you every step of the way and whatever help you need or accommodations you need, they are going to help you. I told my teachers I'm gonna make you guys proud and in the short time I did it, I did, I did, I made them proud.

You do need to meet reading requirements. If you don't meet the reading requirements today, a local ABE program has preparation classes available to help you get there. So how do you get started? When you go to your local Adult Basic Education program the staff will explain the options available, help you choose the best path and set up your personal learning plan.

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If you would like to find an adult education program near you, please call the Minnesota Literacy Council's ABE Hotline at 1-800-888-1990 or visit mnliteracy.org/hotline.