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
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
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](http://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.
COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub
Hamline University

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.abeacademics.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...
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

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 participating because of slow or no internet connections. These articles gave me some good food for thought:
https://www.waseda.jp/brightspace/2020/03/17/how-bandwidth-teaching-tools-onspace
https://www.idd.org/videoconferencing-alternatives-low-bandwidth-teaching-will-say

How are you creating accessible, interactive learning opportunities for your students?
Adding a Discussion Thread

In the course management platform, you can add a discussion thread by clicking on the 'Add Discussion' button. This will open the 'Create Discussion' window where you can enter the title and description of the thread. Once you've completed the entries, click 'Create' to add the discussion thread to the course.
Resources

COVID-19 & Distance Education Resource Hub

Resources

- Distance Learning
  - Resources related to ASYNCHRONOUS distance learning platforms and teachers follow up at a later time. These include all Minnie Moby Max, Edmentum, Khan Academy, and Northstar Online.
  - Added by Elizabeth Bennett - Mar 19, 2020

- Synchronous Distance Education
  - Resources related to teaching students from a distance in tools like Google Hangouts/Meet/Duo, FaceTime, Skype, WhatsApp, FaceTime, or 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

Instructional Resources Related to COVID-19

- Basic information, articles, math and science, and more!
  - [Link](http://www.collectedy.org/2020/03/teaching-about-coronavirus/)
  - Added by Lindsey Cermak - Mar 19, 2020

- Specific to ESOL
  - [Link](http://www.collectedy.org/2020/03/esol-resources-for-healthy-practices-in-covid-19)
  - Added by Lindsey Cermak - Mar 19, 2020

- Coronavirus Lesson Plans and Resources from AFT Share My Lesson
  - [Link](https://thearmylesson.com/collections/coronavirus)
  - Added by Stephanie Sonniners - Mar 19, 2020
Uploading a Resource

In the hoology platform, to upload a resource, navigate to the Resources section and select "Add Resources." From the dropdown menu, you can then choose various options to add different types of resources such as assignment templates, test/quiz templates, files, links, discussion templates, pages, external tools, packages, rubrics, badges, question banks, and copy from resources.
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.
• 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!
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
• 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!
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 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 that 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 below 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/drmh/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-cnn/index.html?fbclid=IwAR2eBP7wGqGhCFQCKDC3Jp_Rw3ySUUJy21JhCeCu70g860IYtpEcjEa_o

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
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](#)

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

### Table A (May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020)

**Total Enrollment & Contact Hours**

Enter the number of enrollees and their total contact hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consortium Name:</th>
<th>Number of Enrollees (any # of hrs)</th>
<th>Total Contact Hours For Enrollees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Table A</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ABE 1
2. ABE 2
3. ABE 3
New this year: Table A1

Necessary because of proposed adjustment to contact hour reporting period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Functioning Level at Entry</th>
<th>Number of Enrollees (any # of hrs)</th>
<th>Total Contact Hours For Enrollees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABE 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABE 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABE 3</td>
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<td>ABE 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABE 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABE 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adjust the dates in SiD to get correct data for Tables A and A1

Table A in SiD

Table A - Total Enrollment & Contact Hours

Sandbox: 3/13/2019 - 3/14/2020
All SubSites **
All Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre Test EFL</th>
<th># of Distinct</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
• 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
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