

# LITERACY ACTION NETWORK

ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

The LAN Board has adopted a 2021 legislative platform designed to stabilize financial resources to serve Adult Basic Education (ABE) students in Minnesota. The platform was developed over several months of thought and feedback from the LAN Membership throughout the state and consideration by the LAN Legislative Committee.

## LAN INITIATIVES:

**INCREASE ABE FUNDING ANNUALLY BASED ON THE PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE THAT K-12 RECEIVES.**

Since 2001, ABE funding state-wide has remained flat, while the inflation rate from 2001 to 2020 was 47%. This has caused a significant decrease in funding to support ABE services statewide. Costs have continued to go up, and have escalated further due to COVID 19. While K12 and ECFE receive an annual percentage funding increase, ABE does not. The proposed platform addresses this shortfall by increasing resources for all ABE consortia.

**PROVIDE \$2M IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO COVER ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES RELATED TO COVID 19.**

The pandemic has created many challenges and additional costs for ABE, as all classes changed to a virtual format. New costs include specialized professional development for teachers, purchasing devices for low income adult learners, expenses to access online platforms, etc. Targeted funding is requested to cover student devices/internet access, and digital navigation.

## LAN SUPPORTS:

**EFFORTS BY THE COALITION TO INCREASE TEACHERS OF COLOR AND AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHERS TO EXPAND RACIAL DIVERSITY AMONG PUBLIC MINNESOTA SCHOOL TEACHERS.**

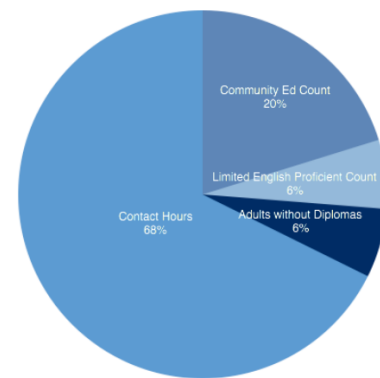
**LAN will monitor** discussion regarding pay equity between K-12 and ABE or ECFE teacher contracts for licensed teachers and the potential impacts to services available. New funding should accompany any such policy change, to cover increased costs.

**ABE Day at the Capitol!** Students and ABE staff from throughout MN will be meeting with their local legislators at the Minnesota State Capitol. Please join us! Date to be announced.

## BACKGROUND: THERE ARE FOUR PRIMARY COMPONENTS TO THE ABE FORMULA:

1. Contact Hour Aid, based on the number of student contact hours at each consortia
2. Total population in the service area of each school district consortia
3. Number of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in the service area of each school district
4. Number of adults 25 and older without a secondary credential in the service area of each school district

Formula Distribution of ABE Funding



**In 2019-2020, 60,320 students accessed services at 41 Consortia throughout MN generating 4,470,192 contact hours statewide.**

ABE Enrollees Served

