

Overview of Adult Basic Education in Minnesota

Key Facts

Core Services

- * High school equivalency (formerly GED) preparation and testing, Standard Adult High School Diploma, English Language Learning, Basic Skills, Family Literacy, integrated English Language and Civics Education (IEL/Civics)

Initiatives and Priority Areas

- * Adult Career Pathways: Preparing Adults for Postsecondary Education, Training, Employment and Workforce Education.
- * Distance Learning and Digital Literacy: Building Adults' Technology Skills.

Number Served (2016)

- * Total Served: 66,314
- * Total Contact Hours: 5,497,385

Who is Served

- * Must be 17 and over, not enrolled in secondary school, and seeking a secondary credential or lacking skills in any of the basic academic areas including reading, math, writing and speaking English.
- * Students - English Language Learners - 39%; in Corrections - 17%; Single parents - 10%; unemployed 26%; receiving public assistance - 12%; no prior schooling - 8%

Selected Outcomes

- * The average participant in Minnesota's ABE system received 140 hours of instruction in 2015.
- * 33% of ABE participants who had or earned a secondary credential were enrolled in postsecondary institutions within the first year after exiting ABE.

Locations

- * 44 consortia serve the state.
- * Consortia deliver ABE programming at public schools, workforce centers, community/technical colleges, prisons/jails, libraries, learning centers, tribal centers, and non-profit organizations.
- * Consortia hire more than 1,400 staff (licensed teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors and administrators) and work with more than 1,400 trained volunteers to provide high quality instruction.
- * 68% of paid instructors are part-time (primarily due to insufficient funding).

Professional Development

- * Minnesota ABE has a comprehensive professional development system funded through statewide Supplemental Services providers.