

The LAN Board has adopted a 2022 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.**
- **RAISE THE CONSORTIUM GROSS REVENUE PER CONTACT HOUR CAP (CURRENTLY AT \$22/HOUR) TO \$28 PER HOUR.**

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.

- **MAKE PERMANENT THE \$10M ADDITIONAL FUNDING RECEIVED BY ABE IN 2020-21**

One-time special funding provided this year has allowed ABE programs throughout the state to expand and enhance their technical infrastructure, develop career pathways classes responsive to both learner and employer needs, and make many other improvements. At the same time, programs have increasing problems recruiting and maintaining teachers, as current teachers retire and salaries limited by the current formula prevent recruitment of replacements. Increasing ABE funding ongoing will allow communities throughout Minnesota to continue developing and delivering effective ABE programming, delivered by highly qualified staff.

- **EXPANSION OF DIGITAL LITERACY NAVIGATION AND RELATED NEEDS VIA TARGETED USE OF \$20M IN FEDERAL COVID RELIEF FUNDING.**

Inadequate training, lack of devices, and poor broadband contribute to deep inequities in accessing educational resources, medical care, employment, civic participation, and many other crucial services and opportunities. Providing funding to Minnesota communities to help them address these inequities, with emphasis on skill building for local residents, will allow each community to address their identified digital literacy needs proactively.

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.