

The LAN Board has adopted a 2023 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 LAN's Legislative Committee.

LAN INITIATIVES:

1. 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 In 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.

2. RAISE THE CONSORTIUM GROSS REVENUE PER CONTACT HOUR CAP (CURRENTLY AT \$22.00/HOUR) TO \$30.00 PER HOUR.

Due to the pandemic which has resulted in low contact hours for many programs, this "contact hour cap" cap is going to have a particularly adverse effect on smaller consortia in outstate Minnesota. Increasing the cap to \$30 per hour will protect these programs and have a negligible impact on other programs.

3. INCREASE THE SUBSIDY FOR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TESTING BY \$375,000 (currently \$125,000) FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 ANNUALLY.

Currently the testing costs as much as \$136, making it out of reach for economically challenged students and is a barrier to further education and employment opportunities.

LAN SUPPORTS: EXPANSION OF DIGITAL LITERACY NAVIGATION AND RELATED NEEDS

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 TO INCREASE TEACHERS OF COLOR AND AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHERS TO EXPAND RACIAL DIVERSITY AMONG PUBLIC MINNESOTA SCHOOL TEACHERS.

LAN WILL MONITOR: Discussions 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.

For more information contact: info@literacyactionnetwork.org