

**Adult Basic Education (ABE) teaches learners English, foundational literacy, math, digital skills, preparation for post-secondary education or employment, and more.**

ABE is a crucial economic driver in Minnesota. The current dynamic of strong job growth, combined with the growing number of retirements, prevent many essential jobs from being filled, decreasing economic growth.

Adults with low literacy often have limited opportunities to secure self-sustaining employment. They can have difficulties filling out a job application and difficulty helping their child with homework. When adult learners enter our classrooms they bring their life experiences, attitudes about learning, motivations and hopes. ABE meets adult learners at their level and supports their learning to help them succeed. **Investing in ABE supports whole family and community well-being.**

## LAN INITIATIVES

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### **\$10 MILLION INCREASE IN ADULT EDUCATION BASE FUNDING TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES STATEWIDE AND ELIMINATE WAITING LISTS FOR CLASSES.**

- The gross revenue per contact hour cap, current \$30 per hour, would raise to \$36 per hour, and
- The cap on growth in contact hour revenue, currently the greater of 11% of \$10,000 would be suspended for the funding year 2025-2026. For future years the cap would be raised to the great of 11% or \$12,000.

There has been a 16% growth in hours service across the state and program cost increases have increased more than 20% in many programs. Our dedicated ABE teachers are critical to the programs we offer and account for 90% of ABE operation costs; since there are not other places to cut costs, instructional hours shrink leading to loss of existing staff and leaving adult learners unserved by Adult Education programming.

Ongoing funding constraints reduced capacity for ABE to partner with employers, DEED, local workforce, and post-secondary programs

More support is also needed for testing in Greater MN. Given the scarcity of testing sites and the challenges posed by internet instability for remote testing in rural MN, funding is essential to help establish additional testing sites and mobile testing centers.

### **BASE FUNDING OF UP TO \$250,000/YEAR FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE) ONE-FREE TEST FUNDING**

Funding is currently at \$460,000 for 3 years. To date, students have used more than \$200,000 in the first year. Support for these tests is vital for enabling Minnesotans to pursue employment opportunities, career advancements, and higher education.

**For more information contact:**

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