

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

1. \$10 MILLION INCREASE IN ADULT EDUCATION BASE FUNDING TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES STATEWIDE AND PARTNER WITH EMPLOYERS, DEED, LOCAL WORKFORCE AND POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS.

- 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.

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

CHALLENGES FACING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Fewer adult learners served in a timely manner, leaving many potential workers unemployed or underemployed, unable to meet essential, in-demand employer needs.
- Employers facing continued challenges filling jobs, decreasing economic growth.
- Reduced ability to upskill employees.
- Constrained capacity to partner with employers, DEED, post-secondary programs. Lack of adequate HSE/GED testing support in Greater Minnesota.
- Significant program growth and costs.
- Shrinking instructional hours due to funding constraints and staffing concerns.

For more information contact:

Scott Helland
Legislative Co-Chair
shelland@isd622.org

Kaija Bergen
Legislative Co-Chair
kaijabergen@gmail.com

Sherry Munyon
Lobbyist
smunyon@capitolaccess.us
(612) 723-4245

BENEFITS OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Adult Education (ABE) teaches over 60,000 learners English, foundational literacy, math, and digital skills, preparation for post-secondary education or employment, and more. When adult learners enter our classrooms they bring their life experiences, attitudes about learning, motivations and fears. They are voluntary learners, seeking new information or opportunities and are motivated to learn. Often they are looking for career advancement or to gain additional skills in their current jobs.

Adults with low literacy often have limited potential in securing self-sustaining employment, they can have difficulties filling out a job application and difficulty helping their child with homework.

ABE provides a continuum of services to adults who seek to empower themselves. Many programs offer career pathways in medical, hospitality, and trade jobs in addition to college readiness.

ABE meets adult learners at their level and supports their learning to help them succeed. Investing in adult education supports whole family and community well-being.

A STATEWIDE SURVEY FOUND:

- **Ongoing funding constraints** reduced capacity for ABE to partner with employers, DEED, local workforce, and post-secondary programs
- **Fewer adult learners served in a timely manner**, leaving potential workers unemployed or underemployed, unable to meet essential, in-demand employer needs.
- **Employers struggling to fill jobs with qualified candidates**, inhibiting economic growth and self-sufficiency.
- **Support needed for HSE/GED 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.
- **Long distance learning services and equipment needs such as computers, etc. are not being met.** The original ABE formula was developed prior to the development of internet classes.

Visit our website at:
literacyactionnetwork.org

