

Adult Basic Education

Information compiled from Minnesota School Finance; A Guide for Legislators
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Adult basic education (ABE) programs provide academic instruction to adults who have not completed high school. The purpose of ABE instruction is to enable adults to obtain high school diplomas or equivalency certificates. ABE consortiums may include school districts, higher education programs, and nonprofit partners.

Adult Basic Education Revenue

The current ABE formula was created by the 2000 Legislature. For FY 18, slightly simplified, the ABE formula spends about \$47 million statewide and consists of:

- **Contact Hour Aid** – each program receives \$6.05 per student contact hour totaling \$39.6 million statewide reduced;
- **Population (Census) Aid** – \$1.73 times the total population of the ABE consortium totaling about \$9.5 million;
- **English Learner Aid** – \$44.30 times the English Learner count of the consortium totaling \$3.04 million;
- **No Diploma Count** – \$7.99 times the number of adults age 25 or older with no diploma residing in the consortium totaling \$3.04 million; and
- **Overall Cap** – each program participant’s total adult basic aid must not exceed the statutorily set cap of \$22 per contact hour.

A portion of each year’s total ABE aid is set aside for supplemental service grants.

The statewide amount of ABE aid grows according to a statutorily prescribed inflator. The annual inflator equals the lesser of the ten-year average growth in contact hours or 3 percent per year.

An approved ABE program that is not a member of consortium qualifies only for Contact Hours Aid.

ABE Expenditures

Each ABE program must be approved by the commissioner, develop a memorandum of understanding with local workforce development centers, and report results through its performance tracking system.

ABE aid must be spent on the following activities provided by licensed ABE teachers and volunteers: Adult Diploma programs, preparation for GED and other equivalency tests, English as a Second Language programs, family literacy programs, basic skills enhancement, workplace literacy, and U.S. Citizenship preparation, and Civics education.