

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT GO BEYOND “BASIC”

Below are examples of programs in our adult basic education system which take adult learners to the next level by providing instructors and navigators to assist learners in obtaining the skills to earn credentials for programs in health care, labor, and postsecondary education.

With additional investment, more of our programs will be able to assist learners in job readiness and income earners in an economical way.

Metro South ABE – Adult Career Pathways

Metro South Adult Basic Education is a consortium of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, and Richfield. Metro South serves individuals and families from a wide range of communities, primarily in the metropolitan suburbs of south Hennepin County. MSABE has been providing ABE programs in our community for more than four decades and is one of the largest ABE consortium programs in Minnesota, serving more than 2,000 students annually.

For nearly two decades, **Metro South ABE has partnered with workforce development partners and post-secondary education institutions to offer training in in-demand careers that provide students with industry-recognized credentials.** The **hallmark of their career pathways programming has been the nursing assistance preparation course, and they also offer training in education, business and computer applications, and transportation.**

Outcomes slightly exceeded state averages

- Employed at any point in the 8 quarters following ABE Program Year = 621 (47)%
- Average length of employment in the 8 Quarters following ABE Program Year = 2.60
- 1st Quarter (Months 1-3 after exit) average hourly wage = \$17.40
- 1st Quarter (Months 1-3 after exit) average total hours worked = 360.70

Rochester ABE – Bridges to Careers

In 2013, Hawthorne, WDI, and area healthcare employers worked together to create **Bridges to Careers–Bridges to Healthcare**, a bridge program that prepares adult education learners to develop skills and knowledge, enter postsecondary education and earn credentials, and obtain in-demand healthcare jobs. Learners also have options to enroll in bridge programs for the **Office Professional pathway** and the **Maintenance pathway**. The Office Professional pathway leads learners to further their education and credentials for employment as office support specialists or administrative assistants in office or healthcare settings. The Maintenance Pathway leads to employment as maintenance technicians.

When learners complete a Bridges to Careers bridge program, they have earned up to seven articulated credits toward a credential at Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC). **Depending on their needs, learners enter employment or continue working toward higher levels of education and credentials at RCTC.** Instructors, staff navigators, and administrators help learners take the required steps toward achieving their goals.

The percentage and number of learners who obtain employment and continue their studies at RCTC have increased annually. **The average mean hourly wage of program learners who obtained employment is \$4 to \$5 higher than the 2020 minimum wage rates of \$10 per hour for large employers and \$8.15 per hour for small employers.**

Outcomes	PY 2019– 2020
Number of learners enrolled in the Bridges to Careers Expansion programs, Administrative Office Professional and Maintenance Professional	45
Percentage (and number) of learners who entered in the program year and attained short-term credentials	56% (25)
Percentage (and number) of learners who entered in the program year obtained employment	36% (16)
Mean hourly wage	\$15.17
Percentage (& number) of learners who continued their studies at RCTC	58% (26)

Saint Paul Public Schools – Adult Career Pathway Classes

The Building Maintenance Program class prepares individuals for janitorial, custodial, and customer service work in a variety of settings. Learners:

- Build vocabulary and skills related to building maintenance, customer service, workplace safety, and security
- Develop Speaking, Listening, and Reading skills for entry level and advanced jobs in building maintenance and customer service
- **Earn OSHA 10 Certificate for Industrial Safety**
- **Have access to a Counselor who will help with applying for jobs with Marsden, St. Paul Public Schools, or other companies**

Outcomes - Fall 2021 Session -

- 26 Enrolled
- 14 Completed
- 14 Received OSHA cards
- 14 Received Customer Service cards
- 13 are employed

ParaPro for K-12 Program: This 8-12 week online class will help prepare individuals for the ParaPro Certification Exam. The exam is needed if individuals do not have a two or four-year degree and would like to work in a school setting with Kindergarten to 12th grade students. Students will also study Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which are techniques to help support and encourage good behavior in school. Additionally, we provide an opportunity to job shadow a current Educational Assistant or Teacher Assistant with St. Paul Public Schools. You will be able to see what the job is like and how EA or TA interacts with students, school staff or parents.

Outcomes - Fall 2021 Session -

- 14 Enrolled
- 11 Completed
- 7 Passed ParaPro Assessment
- 3 prepping for retake of ParaPro Assessment
- 7 Employed (1 working for teachers on call)

Metro East ABE – Adult Career Pathways

Metro East is the 4th largest consortium in the state and serves adult learners in the East Metro stretching from Sandstone to Woodbury. Their career pathways programming aims to grow a skilled, diverse workforce by offering career training in **healthcare, education, commercial driving, and information technology**.

All of these career pathways have a variety of entry-level positions with opportunities for career growth. These include careers with robust offerings in IT, CNA, manufacturing and in conjunction with Pine Tech College.

Last year, during the pandemic, they served over 700 students for over 38,000 student hours.

International Institute of Minnesota – Medical and Hospitality Career Pathways

The institute works largely with refugees, and has played a pioneering role in developing **Medical Careers Pathways, including Nursing Assistant, College Readiness Academy, and Medical Career Advancement; and Hospitality Careers, including Housekeeping Training, Dietary Aid Training, and Leadership Training.** Their pathways classes are built to help encourage students not only to qualify for employment, but to continue their education and ‘move up’ the job ladder.

In 2021, 96 graduates were certified as nursing assistants, and 65 were placed in employment. During the same year, 53 individuals who had completed the College Readiness Academy entered college. And, the same year, 62 individuals completed the Hospitality Careers Pathway, and 41 were placed in jobs.

In 2019 (pre-COVID), 97 individuals completed nursing assistant training, and 55 were placed in jobs; for the College Readiness Academy, 91 graduated, and 93 enrolled in college (the total enrolled included some who had graduated the previous year).

Mankato Area Adult Education

“SCC Connects” Adult Career Pathways is a partnership between South Central College, Mankato and neighboring regional ABE programs, and the Mankato area workforce partners (including Minnesota Valley Action Council, Blue Earth County Employment Services, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Job Service and the South Central Workforce Council). **The partnership offers Integrated Education and Training (IET) programming that connects people who are academically underprepared and low-wage earners to the resources and training necessary for job advancement and individual prosperity.** There are three Pathways to Prosperity grants in the WSA 7 at this time in the areas of ONRamp, Bridge and Individualized Training and they cover the industries aligned with our WIOA Regional plan, which include **Healthcare, Manufacturing, Construction, Transportation and Community Interpreter Certification.**

The IET consists of multiple options for contextualized instruction, and students may enter at any step in the pathway. If needed, a first step is “On-Ramp Careers In Demand” where classes are offered at the ABE site to explore career options, develop English language or basic skills and participate in workplace preparation activities. **Some students will participate in work experiences and/or complete smaller general credentials for employment during the OnRamp phase. Examples might include obtaining Northstar Digital Literacy certificates, First Aid and CPR certification, earning a GED, ParaPro certification, preparing for a drivers permit or engaging in Google Apps for Education courses.**

Once students identify an industry they want to pursue, they are offered contextualized, industry-specific bridge programming, which may be offered online or co-located on the South Central College campus. **Upon successful completion of a bridge course, students enroll into courses or training programs through our training providers** (such as Arch Language network for Community Interpreter, or at South Central College for our Healthcare, Transportation, Construction or Manufacturing pathways.) **The integrated instruction approach to training results in industry-recognized certifications. The IET Navigator, hired by DEED Job Service, provides wrap-around support services and connections to WIOA Title I programs for tuition, books and support services, as well as job search.** Upon completion of the training, students are provided job search assistance and may choose to work in the field and/or move forward into multiple pathways at South Central College to earn further credentials and degrees.