

**Subject** Adult Basic Education Aid

**Authors** Lee and others

**Analyst** Tim Strom

**Date** March 25, 2019

## Overview

Adult basic education (ABE) programs provide academic instruction for older teenagers who do not otherwise attend school (teenagers above the state's compulsory instruction age) and adults who have not finished high school. The purpose of the instruction is to enable students to obtain high school diplomas or equivalency certificates. A district or an organization offering an ABE program may charge a sliding fee to program participants.

ABE funding is distributed to local fiscal hosts (generally school districts) who often work in concert with other school districts and non-school literacy partners. The ABE formula is based on contact hours, population, the enrollment of English learners, and the number of adults age 25 or older with no diploma residing in a district.

The statewide ABE appropriation (currently about \$49 million) annually grows by the rate of growth in the number of statewide contact hours (hours of instruction), but is limited to a growth rate of not more than 3 percent per year. For the last several years, the statewide number of contact hours has not grown.

H.F. 2325 increases the base funding level to \$51 million for fiscal year 2020 and modifies the growth factor to be the greater of the annual growth in statewide contact hours or the growth in the general education basic formula allowance.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>State total adult basic education aid.</b> Increases the annual statewide adult basic aid amount to \$51 million for fiscal year 2020. Adds a second calculation to the annual growth factor, allowing ABE revenue to grow by the greater of the annual growth in statewide contact hours or the growth in the general education basic formula allowance.

Section	Description
2	<b>Appropriations.</b> Appropriates an unspecified amount of money for Adult Basic Education Aid for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155