

Community, Early Childhood, and Adult Education Programs

This information brief provides an overview of the community, early childhood, and adult education programs administered by the Minnesota Departments of Education and Human Services that are under the jurisdiction of the House education and health and human services committees. These programs provide a broad array of services including early childhood education, health, child care, and adult education. Some of the specific programs included in this information brief are: community education, early childhood family education, health and developmental screening, school readiness, head start, school-age care, after-school community learning grants, adult basic education, adult literacy grants, prekindergarten exploratory projects, child care assistance programs, child care services grants, and child care licensing.

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*Emily Adriaens, Fiscal Analyst in the House Fiscal Analysis Department, provided information related to program appropriations and formulas.

Community Education Programs

Community Education

Community education programs are intended to maximize the community's use of public schools and to expand the involvement of community members who have skills and knowledge to share. Districts establishing a community education program must provide for a citizens' advisory council to advise the school administration on how best to use school facilities and community resources. Fees may be charged for community education programs.

Districts with a community education program may also prepare a youth development plan to improve coordination of agencies that address the needs and develop the resources of youth in the community. A participating district may also offer a youth service program to provide meaningful opportunities for community involvement and citizenship.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.18-124D.21)

Community Education Revenue. Community education programs are funded through both aid and levy. Districts that prepare a youth service program and a youth development plan are eligible for additional revenue. Districts that establish youth after-school enrichment programs are authorized to levy an additional amount.

For fiscal year 2007 and later, the basic community education revenue is based on an allowance of \$5.42. Community education revenue, aid, and levy for fiscal year 2010 are computed as follows:

Total Community Education Revenue	=	General Community Education Revenue	+	Youth Service Revenue	+	Youth After-School Enrichment Revenue
General Community Education Revenue	=	\$5.42, times the greater of: (a) 1,335; or (b) population of the district				
Youth Service Revenue	=	\$1.00, times the greater of (a) 1,335; or (b) population of the district				
Youth After-School Enrichment Revenue	=	(1) \$1.85, times the greater of: (a) 1,335; or (b) population of the district not to exceed 10,000; <i>plus</i> (2) \$0.43, times the population of the district in excess of 10,000				
Community Education Levy	=	.900 times adjusted net tax capacity (ANTC)				
Community Education Aid	=	Total Community Education Revenue	-	Community Education Levy		

The amount of community education aid a district receives is reduced for any district that levies less than the maximum for community education, in proportion to the amount of the underlevy.

The 2003 Legislature placed a limit on community education reserves. Beginning in fiscal year 2003, the average revenue in a district's community education accounts is limited to the district's community education revenue for the previous year. A district facing unique circumstances may request a waiver from this reserve balance limitation.

Community Education Revenue

School Year	Tax Rate	Basic Community Education Revenue per Capita	Youth Service Revenue per Capita	After-School Enrichment Revenue per Capita*	Minimum Revenue per District	Appropriations	Levy	Number of Participating Districts
2010-11	.90 0%	\$5.42	\$1.00	1.85 + 0.43	\$11,040	\$479,000	\$38,895,000	338/340
2009-10	.90 0	5.42	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,040	476,000	38,621,000	338/340
2008-09	.90 0	5.42	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,040	796,000	38,287,000	338/340
2007-08	.90 0	5.42	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,040	1,299,000	37,485,000	338/340
2006-07	.900	5.42	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,040	1,949,000	36,385,000	341/343
2005-06	.981	5.23	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	10,787	2,043,000	35,000,000	341/343
2004-05	.981	5.23	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	10,787	3,198,000	33,715,000	341/343
2003-04	.7431	5.95	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,748	5,357,000	33,640,000	341/343
2002-03	.7431	5.95	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,748	6,076,000	31,245,000	342/343
2001-02	.4795	5.95	1.00	0	9,278	14,194,000	19,218,213	342/343

*After-school enrichment revenue per capita equals \$1.85 times the districts first 10,000 residents plus 43 cents per capita for each resident in excess of 10,000.

House Research Department

Early Childhood Education Programs

Early Childhood Family Education

Districts that provide community education programs may also establish early childhood family education programs (ECFE) for children from birth to kindergarten, for their parents, and for expectant parents. These programs include parent education to promote children's learning and development. All ECFE programming must require substantial parental involvement.

Districts must appoint an advisory council to assist in planning and implementing ECFE programs. Districts are encouraged to coordinate ECFE programs with their special education

and vocational education programs, as well as with other public or nonprofit agencies providing similar services.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.13; 124D.135)

Early Childhood Family Education Revenue. ECFE programs are funded through state aid, local levy, and participant fees. The formula for calculating ECFE revenue is based on the district's population of young children (under the age of five), not the number of children actually served.

For fiscal year 2008 and later, the ECFE allowance is increased to \$120. Calculations for ECFE aid, levy, and revenue are as follows:

ECFE Revenue	=	\$120, times the greater of: (a) 150; or (b) number of district residents under 5 years old
ECFE Levy	=	the commissioner must establish a tax rate for ECFE revenue that, when multiplied by each district's adjusted net tax capacity, raises \$22,135,000 statewide
ECFE Aid	=	ECFE Revenue - ECFE Levy
Home-visiting Levy	=	\$1.60 times the number of district residents under 5 years old

The amount of ECFE aid is reduced for any district that levies less than the maximum early childhood levy allowed to the district, in proportion to the amount of the underlevy.

Beginning in fiscal year 2000, districts were required to charge fees for ECFE programs, but may waive fees for participants who are unable to pay. Districts may also obtain funds from other sources to support early childhood programs. Districts must maintain ECFE funds in a separate account.

The 2001 Legislature placed a limit on the amount of ECFE reserves. Beginning in 2003, the average revenue in a district's ECFE reserve account over the prior three years is limited to 25 percent of the district's ECFE revenue for the prior year. A district's ECFE revenue will be reduced by any amount in excess of an average of 25 percent of the district's ECFE revenue for the prior three years. Districts anticipating a reserve account in excess of this limit due to extenuating circumstances may obtain prior written approval from the Department of Education to exceed the limit.

Early Childhood Family Education Revenue

School Year	ECFE Tax Rate	ECFE Formula Allowance	Appropriations	Levy	Number of Participating Districts	
2010-11	.333	502%	\$120.00	\$21,453,000	\$22,085,000	335/340
2009-10	.335	014	120.00	19,005,000	22,085,000	335/340
2008-09	.207	89	120.00	29,324,000	13,565,000	335/340
2007-08	.382	109	120.00	21,092,000	22,135,000	335/340
2006-07	.427	25	112.00	15,112,000	22,135,000	337/343
2005-06	.485	2	104.00	15,105,000	22,130,000	337/343
2004-05	.533		96.00	15,129,000	21,104,000	337/343
2003-04	.588		120.00	19,675,000	22,209,000	337/343
2002-03	.657	8	120.00	18,664,000	22,084,000	337/343
2001-02	.525	7	120.00	20,746,000	21,027,000	338/343

House Research Department

Early Childhood Home-visiting Program. A school district participating in a collaborative agreement to provide education services and social services through home-visiting programs may levy up to \$1.60 times the number of people under the age of five residing in the district. Statewide, this levy amounts to about \$550,000 per year.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.13; 124D.14)

State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care

The 2008 Legislature changed the membership of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care by adding four members of the legislature and two parents with a child under age six to the council. The 2010 Legislature added the Commissioner of Health to the council and charged the council with additional duties, including making recommendations on creating and implementing a statewide school readiness report card and on how to screen and assess children for school readiness. The council's duties include fulfilling the duties required under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, making recommendations on the most efficient and effective way to leverage state and federal funding streams for early childhood and child care programs, making recommendations on how to coordinate and collocate early childhood and child care programs in one State Office of Early Learning, and reviewing program evaluations regarding high-quality early childhood programs.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.141)

Health Programs

Health and Developmental Screening

School districts are required to provide developmental screening for children before they start school, targeting children who are between three and five years old. A screening program must include:

- ▶ A developmental assessment;
- ▶ A hearing and vision screening or referral;
- ▶ An immunization review and referral;
- ▶ Child's height and weight; and
- ▶ An identification of risk factors that may influence learning and referral.

Optional screening components include:

- ▶ Nutritional, physical, and dental assessments;
- ▶ Review of family circumstances that affect development; and
- ▶ Laboratory tests, blood tests, and health history.

All students must be screened prior to enrollment in a public school unless the child's parent provides a signed statement of conscientiously held beliefs against screening. A student may be screened by a school district, a public or private health care provider, or an individual health care provider.

A school district receives \$75 for each three-year-old screened, \$50 for each four-year-old screened, \$40 for each five- or six-year-old screened, and \$30 for all other students screened within the first 30 days of kindergarten enrollment. The district may transfer money from the general fund to make up the difference between state aid and the cost of the program.

([Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.16-121A.19](#))

Developmental Screening Aid

Fiscal Year	Appropriations
2011 \$3,4	77,000
2010 2,92	2,000
2009 3,59	2,000
2008 2,62	4,000
2007 2,88	0,000
2006 3,00	0,000
2005 2,77	6,000
2004 2,21	3,000
2003 2,20	9,000
2002 2,59	6,000

House Research Department

School Readiness Programs

School Readiness

A school district or group of school districts may establish a school readiness program to enable children to enter school with the necessary skills and behavior to succeed. A child may participate in a school readiness program if the child is at least three years old, has had a developmental screening, and meets certain risk-factor criteria.

Districts may establish a sliding fee for school readiness programs. Fees must be waived for participants who are unable to pay. The state also provides state school readiness aid. Beginning with fiscal year 1998, school readiness aid is calculated as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (1) the number of eligible four-year-olds in the district on October 1 of the previous school year | x | the ratio of 50% of the total aid to the total number of eligible four-year-olds in the state on October 1 of the previous school year; plus |
| (2) the number of students enrolled in the district from families eligible for free and reduced lunch for the second previous school year | x | the ratio of 50% of the total aid to the total number of students in the state eligible for free and reduced lunch for the second previous school year |

Districts must keep school readiness aid in a reserve account within the community service fund.

The 2001 Legislature placed a limit on the amount of school readiness reserves. Beginning in 2003, the average revenue in a district’s school readiness reserve account over the prior three

years is limited to 25 percent of the district’s school readiness revenue for the prior year. A district’s school readiness revenue will be reduced by any amount in excess of an average of 25 percent of the district’s school readiness revenue for the prior three years. Districts anticipating a reserve account in excess of this limit due to extenuating circumstances may obtain prior written approval from the Department of Education to exceed the limit.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.15; 124D.16)

School Readiness Aid

Fiscal Year	Appropriations	Number of Participating Districts
2011 \$9,7	92,000	335/340
2010 8,37	3,000	335/340
2009 10,0	95,000	338/340
2008 9,98	7,000	336/340
2007 9,02	0,000	336/340
2006 9,52	8,000	339/343
2005 9,59	4,000	339/343
2004 9,53	6,000	340/343
2003 8,87	6,000	338/343
2002 10,3	95,000	341/343

House Research Department

Head Start

Head Start is primarily a federally funded program designed to provide a comprehensive family-oriented program that improves school readiness and social competence of children from low-income families. State funds were first appropriated for Head Start programs in fiscal year 1989.

Head Start funds do not flow to school districts but instead to the community organizations that are the grantees. In Minnesota, the most common type of grantee is a community action program.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 119A.50-119A.53)

Head Start Revenue

Fiscal Year	State Aid	Federal Funds	Number of Grantees
2011 \$20,	100,000	\$88,000,000	35
2010 20,1	00,000	86,483,000	35
2009 20,1	00,000	84,817,000	35
2008 20,1	00,000	84,745,000	35
2007 19,1	00,000	83,340,000	35
2006 19,1	00,000	82,799,000	35
2005 17,1	00,000	82,811,000	35
2004 16,3	81,000	79,480,000	35
2003 18,2	35,000	79,480,000	35
2002 17,9	55,000	72,890,000	35

House Research Department

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

The legislature appropriates money to the Department of Education to implement a kindergarten readiness assessment, which is based on the department’s Minnesota School Readiness Study (developmental assessment at kindergarten entrance). The assessment is based on kindergarteners’ teachers own assessments of 32 indicators gathered through the course of their interaction with their students over several weeks at the beginning of the school year. The assessment must be representative of incoming kindergarteners.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.162)

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2011 \$337	,000
2010 225,	000
2009 287,	000
2008 287,	000
2007 287,	000

House Research Department

Child Care Programs

School-age Care

A school district may offer a school-age care program for children in kindergarten through grade six. The program must provide supervised activities during nonschool hours. Programs are primarily funded through participant fees on a sliding fee scale based on family income. This program was formerly called the extended day program. About one-half of the Minnesota's school districts participate in the school-age care program.

Districts with school-age care programs receive school-age care revenue for the additional costs of providing services to children with disabilities or children experiencing temporary family or related problems. For fiscal year 1998 and later, school-age care aid and levy are calculated as follows:

School-age Care Revenue = Program costs approved by the Department of Education

School-age Care Levy = School-age Care Revenue x the lesser of:
(a) one; or
(b) ANTC/pupil units
\$ 3,280

School-age Care Aid = School-age Care Revenue - School-age Care Levy

School-age Care Program

Fiscal Year	Aid	Levy	Number of Participating Districts*
2011 \$1,0	00	\$11,592,000	148/340
2010 0		11,202,000	151/340
2009 1,00	0	11,792,000	155/340
2008 1,00	0	10,580,000	156/340
2007 4,00	0	9,668,000	152/340
2006 17,0	00	8,893,000	156/343
2005 28,0	00	8,099,000	155/343
2004 40,0	00	7,750,000	145/343
2003 94,0	00	6,646,000	147/343
2002 224,	000	5,753,000	145/343

*This column shows the number of districts that levied for the school-age care program. There are additional districts that offer the program but do not levy for it.

House Research Department

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.13; 124D.22)

Child Care Assistance

Child care assistance programs subsidize the child care expenses of eligible low-income families. Minnesota administers two child care assistance programs: Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) child care assistance and Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care assistance. MFIP child care subsidizes the child care costs of families receiving cash assistance through MFIP and provides child care assistance for eligible families for the first 12 months after the family leaves MFIP cash assistance (transition year child care). BSF child care provides a child care subsidy to low-income working families who are not receiving cash assistance from MFIP.

To be eligible for child care assistance, both parents (or one parent in single-parent households) must participate in an authorized work, education, or training activity, cooperate with child support enforcement, and meet income eligibility guidelines. The maximum income limit to be eligible for child care assistance is 47 percent of the state median income (\$32,944 for a family of three in 2010) at program entry and 67 percent (\$46,963 for a family of three in 2010) or less of state median income at program exit.

Children up to age 13 are eligible for child care assistance (up to age 15 for disabled children).

County agencies or their contractors must determine eligibility within 30 days of receiving a request for child care assistance. Direct reimbursement is the only method of receiving child care assistance.

In fiscal year 2010, the estimated average annual subsidy for a family receiving MFIP child care assistance is \$12,094, and the estimated average annual subsidy for a family receiving BSF child care assistance is \$9,737.

Beginning July 1, 2006, the maximum reimbursement rate for child care assistance is increased by 6 percent over the rate established on January 1, 2006, in each county or multicounty region. Every year, the Commissioner of Human Services conducts a survey of rates charged by child care providers to determine the 75th percentile maximum rates for similar care in a county, multicounty region, or category that the commissioner deems to be similar.

There is a family co-payment requirement based on family size and income. The maximum family co-payment is about 14 percent of gross monthly income. Families with incomes below 75 percent (\$13,732 for a family of three in 2010) of the federal poverty level are exempt from making co-payments.

The child care assistance programs receive funding from a variety of sources, including the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, the state general fund, the state special revenue fund, and county funds.

During fiscal year 2010, an estimated average of 9,503 families per month will receive MFIP child care assistance and 11,123 families per month will receive BSF child care assistance.

Not all families who apply for child care assistance receive it. MFIP child care is a forecasted, fully funded program, while BSF child care receives a capped allocation. As of May 31, 2010, there were 3,211 families on the waiting list for BSF child care assistance.

(Minn. Stat. ch. 119B)

Child Care Assistance Programs

Fiscal Year	State Funds	Federal Funds	County Funds
2011	\$82,534,765	\$148,761,276	\$2,941,235
2010	93,439,000	109,573,018	2,940,974
2009	101,955,031	91,827,023	2,941,235
2008	88,828,391	101,298,886	2,941,235
2007	68,101,998	111,668,420	2,941,235
2006	57,491,499	110,448,941	2,941,235
2005	70,018,581	95,202,988	2,941,235
2004	97,648,786	72,313,494	2,947,000
2003	126,547,993	95,977,854	2,935,116
2002	114,298,762	84,660,918	2,941,235

Notes: There was a transfer of \$9,227,000 in federal CCDF funds in fiscal year 2009 for the Basic Sliding Fee program. There was a transfer of \$950,000 in federal TANF funds in fiscal year 2009 for the MFIP child care program.

Child Care Development Grants

Child care services grants are distributed by the Commissioner of Human Services to the child care resource and referral programs for child care services grants. Up to 10 percent of the grant funds may be used by the Department of Human Services for statewide child care development initiatives, training initiatives, collaboration programs, and research and data collection. At least 90 percent of the grant funds may be distributed by the commissioner to the child care resource and referral programs for child care center grants and family child care grants based on specified factors, including the number of children under 13 years of age needing child care in the region, the region served by the program, the ratio of children under 13 years of age needing child care to the number of licensed spaces in the region, and the number of licensed child care providers and school-age care programs in the region. Child care resource and referral programs must award child care center grants and family child care grants based on the recommendation of the child care district proposal review committees.

Child care services grants may be awarded for activities such as improving licensed child care facility programs, staff training and development services, capacity building, emergency assistance for child care programs, and targeted recruitment initiatives to expand and build the capacity of the child care system and to improve the quality of care provided by legal nonlicensed child care providers. Family child care grants of up to \$1,000 may be used for activities including, but not limited to, facility improvements, improvements to expand a child care facility or program, toys and equipment, start-up costs, technology and software to create, enhance, and maintain business management systems, and staff training and development. Child care services grants may be awarded to licensed providers, providers in the process of being licensed, corporations or public agencies that develop or provide child care services, school-age care programs, legal nonlicensed or family, friend, and neighbor care providers, or any combination of the above. A recipient of a child care services grant for facility improvements, or staff training and development must provide a 25 percent local match. A local match is not required for grants to family child care providers.

[\(Minn. Stat. § 119B.21\)](#)

Child Care Development Grants

Fiscal Year	State Funds	Federal Funds	Number of Grantees
2011 \$1,4	87,000	11,234,000	NA
2010 1,48	7,000	10,366,000	2,299
2009 6,03	0,000	9,113,000	3,052
2008 1,36	5,000	9,045,000	2,650
2007 1,36	5,000	9,185,000	2,619
2006 1,36	5,000	8,900,000	2,537
2005 1,16	4,000	11,150,000	2,349
2004 1,11	5,000	11,164,000	NA
2003 1,36	5,000	9,383,000	NA
2002 1,86	5,000	9,172,000	NA

House Research Department

Child Care Licensing

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of children in child care settings, state law specifies certain requirements for the licensing of child care programs. Both state and local government have a role in child care program licensing. The Department of Human Services issues licenses to all child care programs, conducts licensing inspections and investigates complaints and allegations of licensing violations or child maltreatment in child care centers, and conducts background studies of individuals who have direct contact with children served by licensed child care centers. The local county social services or human services agency performs specified licensing functions for family and group family child care homes, conducts licensing inspections and investigates complaints and allegations of licensing violations or child maltreatment in family and group family child care homes, and collects necessary data for the commissioner to conduct background studies of individuals who have direct contact with children served by licensed family and group family child care homes.

There are certain exceptions to the general requirement that child care providers must be licensed. Under these exceptions, certain types of child care are considered to be legal nonlicensed child care, for which a provider does not need a license. Some of the legal nonlicensed child care settings include: services provided to children who are related to the child care provider, services provided to children from a single related family member who is not related to the child care provider, programs operated by a public school for children 33 months or older, recreation programs for children that are operated or approved by a park and recreation board, Head Start nonresidential programs that operate for less than 45 days in a year, and the religious instruction of school-age children.

In addition, all licensed child care providers are mandated reporters under the state's Maltreatment of Minors Act. This means that a child care worker who knows or has reason to believe that a child is being neglected or abused must report the abuse or neglect to the local law enforcement, social services agency, or licensing agency.

([Minn. Stat. ch. 245A](#))

School Readiness Service Agreements

The 2007 Legislature established School Readiness Service Agreements (SRSA) for child care providers who apply to the Commissioner of Human Services, meet certain criteria, and perform services that support school readiness for children and economic stability for parents. The SRSAs allow the commissioner to pay higher child care provider reimbursement rates to up to 50 child care providers that represent diverse parts of the state and a variety of child care delivery models.

A child care provider who has a service agreement with the commissioner will be paid a higher reimbursement rate for eligible families served by that provider. Eligible families must be eligible to receive child care assistance, be in an authorized activity for an average of at least 35 hours per week when initial eligibility is determined, and include a child who has not yet entered kindergarten.

Entering into a service agreement does not guarantee that a provider will receive payment at a higher rate for families receiving child care assistance. An eligible family must choose a provider participating in an SRSA in order for the higher rate to be paid. Payments through SRSAs are also limited by the availability of SRSA funds.

The 2009 Legislature appropriated both general funds and federal funds for the program on a onetime basis for fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

([Minn. Stat. § 119B.231](#))

School Readiness Service Agreements

Fiscal Year	State Funds	Federal Funds
2011 \$257	,000	641,000
2010 257,	000	506,000
2009 500,	000	
2008 500,	000	

House Research Department

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Grant Program

The 2007 Legislature established a family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) grant program to promote children's early literacy, healthy development, school readiness, and to foster community partnerships to promote children's school readiness. Grants must be used by community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes working with FFN caregivers in local communities, cultural communities, and Indian tribes to:

- Provide training, support, and resources to FFN caregivers in order to improve and promote children's health, safety, nutrition, and school readiness;
- Connect FFN caregivers and children's families with appropriate community resources that support the families' health, mental health, economic, and developmental needs;
- Connect FFN caregivers and children's families to early childhood screening programs and facilitate referrals where appropriate;
- Provide FFN caregivers and children's families with information about early learning guidelines;
- Provide FFN caregivers and children's families with information about becoming a licensed family child care provider; and
- Provide FFN caregivers and children's families with information about early learning allowances and enrollment opportunities in high quality community-based child care and preschool programs.

Grants may also be used for the following:

- Health and safety and early learning kits for FFN caregivers
- Play-and-learn groups with FFN caregivers
- Culturally appropriate early childhood training for FFN caregivers
- Transportation for FFN caregivers and children's families to school readiness and other early childhood training activities
- Other activities that promote school readiness
- Data collection and evaluation

- Staff outreach and outreach activities
- Translation needs
- Administrative costs up to 12 percent of a recipient's grant award

Grants must also be used to fund partnerships among Minnesota public and regional library systems, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes to implement early literacy programs in low-income communities.

The 2009 Legislature did not appropriate any general funds for this program, but directed federal funds to be used for the program on a onetime basis.

([Minn. Stat. § 119B.232](#))

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Grant Program

Fiscal Year	State Funds	Federal Funds	Number of Grantees
2011 \$0		\$375,000	6
2010 0		375,000	6
2009 375,	000	0	6
2008 375,	000	0	6

House Research Department

Adult Education Programs

Programs for Adults with Disabilities

Districts may offer programs for adults with disabilities as part of their community education programs. These programs may include outreach activities to identify adults needing service, classes specifically for adults with disabilities, services enabling the adults to participate in community education, and activities to increase public awareness and enhance the role of people with disabilities in the community. To be eligible for adults with disabilities program revenue, the program description and budget must be approved by the Department of Education.

State aid is provided to districts with approval for educational programs for adults with disabilities. State aid is equal to the lesser of \$30,000 or one-half of the actual program expenditures. The remainder of a district's program revenue is composed of funds from other public or private sources, or an optional levy not to exceed \$30,000 or one-half of the approved program budget.

The aid appropriations for fiscal years 1998 to 2003 included funding for new adults with disabilities pilot projects to be located in areas of Minnesota without a program. The pilot sites were given no levy authority to levy for the program.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.19, subds. 7, 8; 124D.56)

Programs for Adults with Disabilities

Fiscal Year	Appropriations	Levy	Number of Programs
2011 \$688	,000	\$670,000	77
2010 588,	000	670,000	77
2009 710,	000	670,000	77
2008 710,	000	670,000	77
2007 710,	000	670,000	77
2006 750,	000	670,000	77
2005 741,	000	670,000	77
2004 688,	000	643,000	77
2003 656,	000	669,000	77
2002 631,	000	669,000	77

House Research Department

Adult Basic Education

Adult basic education (ABE) programs provide academic instruction for persons over age 16 who do not attend school. The purpose of the instruction is to enable students to obtain high school diplomas or equivalency certificates.

The Commissioner of Education must approve a district’s ABE program. The commissioner may also contract with private nonprofit organizations to provide these programs. Programs work in administrative units called ABE consortia. Local ABE consortia decide where to set up ABE delivery sites. Currently, there are over 500 delivery sites administered by 53 consortia that annually serve over 75,000 students.

A district or an organization offering an ABE program may charge a sliding fee to program participants.

School districts may use funds from the community education levy and state community education aid for ABE programs. In addition, ABE programs are funded with state aid and federal funds. The total amount from all sources cannot exceed the actual cost of providing adult education programs.

The state also reimburses testing centers for 60 percent of the cost of administering general education development (GED) tests, up to a maximum of \$40 per individual. GED tests, which qualify students for a high school equivalency certificate, are available to Minnesota residents over age 19 whether or not they have taken a refresher course.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.52; 124D.53; 124D.531; 124D.55)

Adult Basic Education Revenue. The 2000 Legislature established a new ABE funding formula beginning with revenue for fiscal year 2001. The 2003 Legislature modified the program. The new formula is based on contact hours, population, the enrollment of students with limited English proficiency, and the number of adults age 20 or older with no diploma residing in a district. The new formula caps the growth of state total ABE aid by setting in statute an overall revenue limit. For fiscal year 2008, the cap was \$40,650,000. For fiscal years 2009 and later, the statewide aid cap grows by the lesser of 3 percent or the average growth in contact hours over the previous ten years. The program also caps an individual program's growth at 11 percent each year. Additionally, there is a cap on total program revenue. For each individual program, the total adult basic aid must not exceed \$22 per prior year contact hour.

Prior to the change, ABE funding was based on full-time equivalent students (FTE). An FTE was equal to 408 contact hours for a student at the adult secondary instructional level and 240 contact hours for either a student at a lower instructional level or an English as a second language student. Until fiscal year 2000, local levies had been an additional method to provide funding for ABE programs. In addition, ABE programs were eligible for additional aid if their aid amount was less than in 1992. In fiscal year 2000, the additional amount was equal to 60 percent of the difference between the formula aid in fiscal year 1997 and fiscal year 2000. However, the FTE formula, basic population aid, and aid guarantee were all replaced by the 2000 Legislature with the new ABE formula.

For fiscal year 2010, state aid to ABE programs is equal to:

State Total ABE Aid	=	\$43,126,000
ABE Basic Population Aid	=	the greater of: (1) \$3,844; or (2) \$1.73 times the population of the district
Remaining ABE Revenue	=	State Total ABE Aid – ABE Basic Population Aid
ABE Program Revenue	=	(1) ABE Basic Population Aid; plus (2) 84% times Remaining ABE Revenue, times the ratio of contact hours for students participating in the program during the first prior program year to the state total contact hours during the first prior program year; plus (3) 8% times Remaining ABE Revenue, times the ratio of the enrollment of students with limited English proficiency during the second prior program year to the state total enrollment of students with limited English proficiency during the second prior program year; plus (4) 8% times Remaining ABE Revenue, times the ratio of the latest federal census count of the number of adults age 20 or older with no diploma residing in the district during the current program year to the state total number of adults age 20 or older with no diploma residing in all participating districts

Since fiscal year 2002, 2 percent of state total ABE aid must be set aside for ABE supplemental service grants.

Each recipient's ABE aid must be proportionately reduced if the appropriation is insufficient to meet the formula amounts.

Adult Basic Education Programs

Fiscal Year	Appropriations	Number of Consortia
2011 \$42,	829,000	53
2010 35,6	71,000	53
2009 41,7	12,000	53
2008 40,3	44,000	53
2007 37,4	86,000	53
2006 36,5	18,000	53
2005 37,4	44,000	53
2004 32,9	49,000	53
2003 30,1	12,000	53
2002 31,9	52,000	53

House Research Department

Hearing Impaired Adults

The Department of Education coordinates and funds support services for hearing impaired persons to assure access to educational opportunities. Services are provided to adult students who are hearing impaired and (1) have been denied access to educational opportunities because of the lack of support services, (2) are presently enrolled, or (3) are contemplating enrollment in an educational program and would benefit from support services.

School districts or public or private community agencies may receive funding for interpreter services to provide translation for an individual or group of students or note-taker services to convert spoken language to written language when the student must maintain visual contact with other persons such as an interpreter or instructor. Support services may be provided for local school district adult education programs, adult technical college programs, and avocational education programs sponsored by public or private community agencies.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.57)

Hearing Impaired Adults

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2011 \$70,	000
2010 70,0	00
2009 70,0	00
2008 70,0	00
2007 70,0	00
2006 70,0	00
2005 70,0	00
2004 70,0	00
2003 70,0	00
2002 70,0	00

House Research Department

Miscellaneous Programs

Educate Parents Partnership

The Educate Parents Partnership allows the Department of Education to work in partnership with health care providers and community organizations to provide parent information to parents of newborns at the time of birth. The Department of Education may coordinate the partnership and the distribution of informational material to the parents of newborns before they leave the hospital with early childhood organizations, including, but not limited to, ECFE, child care resource and referral programs, and interagency early intervention committees.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.129)

Educate Parents Partnership

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2011 \$75,	000
2010 23,0	00
2009 50,0	00
2008 50,0	00
2007 80,0	00

House Research Department

For more information about community education programs, visit the education area of our web site, www.house.mn/hrd/hrd.htm.