

# Minnesota Standard Adult High School Diploma

Minnesota’s standard adult high school diploma is a competency-based secondary credential that is issued by the state department of education for adults that complete an authorized Standard Adult Diploma program in Adult Basic Education (ABE) with an approved electronic portfolio.

The Standard Adult Diploma has:

* **5 Domains**: 1. English Language Arts, 2. Mathematics, 3. Science, 4. Social Studies, and 5. Employability, Career Awareness and Digital Literacy
* Each domain has **4 Areas**;
* Each area has **Competencies** (1-17 competencies per area); and
* Competencies are based on **Standards**.

## Aligned to Minnesota’s Educational Standards

Competencies for the Minnesota Standard Adult High School Diploma are based on [Minnesota’s current K-12 academic standards](http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/stds/) (http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/stds/) and embed:

* College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for Adult Education
* Academic, Career and Employability Skills (ACES) Transitions Integration Framework and
* Northstar Digital Literacy Standards

More information about Minnesota’s ABE content standards can be found online at the [ATLAS website for content standards](http://atlasabe.org/resources/content-standards) (http://atlasabe.org/resources/content-standards).

## Minnesota Standard Adult Diploma Competency Domains

There are five subjects or domains that a student must demonstrate competency in order to earn their Standard Adult High School Diploma:

| **Domain** | **Areas** |
| --- | --- |
| **English Language Arts** | Reading  Writing  Language  Speaking and Listening |
| **Mathematics** | Number Sense  Algebra  Geometry  Data, Statistics and Probability |
| **Science** | Nature of Science and Engineering  Life Science  Physical Science  Earth and Space Science |
| **Social Studies** | U.S. Government and Citizenship  Economics  History  Geography |
| **Employability and Career Awareness** | Self-Management  Developing a Future Pathway  Navigating Systems  Digital Literacy |

## Mix and Match: Adult students can choose their completion options

Standard Adult Diploma students have choices in creating their individual learning plan. This helps recognize their experience and skills while working with their ABE program to adapt their path according to their future career pathway. Students may successfully demonstrate each competency through one of the following options:

* **Prior Experience-Based Competency Verification** (K-12, postsecondary or other experiences)
* **Test-Verified Knowledge** (approved standardized assessment for high schools, secondary credentials, ABE programs and/or postsecondary entrance exams)
* **ABE Course Demonstration** (These are classes that offer academic, employability and career content, like adult diploma classes, test-preparation classes, college readiness classes, subject-specific classes, integrated education and training, etc.)
* **Applied and Experiential Learning** (through an approved contextualized project)

## Student Eligibility and Process

An adult can be eligible for this diploma program if they do not have a diploma, are not participating with K-12 services, are age 19 and older, and are eligible for ABE program services.

A typical Standard Adult Diploma student educational process includes the following:

**Initial Advising**

* Identify student goals
* Assess student skills and experience to determine what competencies that may already be complete for the transcript based on prior learning competency verification
* Identify potential career pathway(s) and needs using career and postsecondary preparation assessments, similar to assessments used in Minnesota’s K-12 system
* Develop an individualized learning plan based on the student’ identified goals and skills

**Instruction and Evaluation**

* Implement individualized learning plan based on instruction and preparation on the domains.
* Post-test learners using approved assessments for Minnesota’s ABE programming
* Track progress towards diploma and goals
* Update and adapt individualized learning plan and student portfolio
* Provide additional support services

**Graduating Advising**

* Evaluate individual’s portfolio with evidence and student-produced work in Adult Diploma Program to ensure completion of necessary competencies
* Complete transitions plan to continue work on students’ next steps beyond graduation

## Making the Standard Adult High School Diploma Available Across Minnesota

Annually, ABE sites and consortia are able to apply to become new Standard Adult High School Diploma programs. Currently, 27 of Minnesota’s ABE consortia are approved and trained to offer the Standard Adult High School Diploma at more than 100 sites across the state.

### Minnesota Standard Adult High School Diploma Programs

* **Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA)**, Northeast Minnesota (Tracy Chase)
* **Adult Options in Education**, Hopkins and St. Louis Park (Chelsea Ritland)
* **Cass Lake-Bena-Walker,** (Laura Malott)
* **Central Minnesota**, St. Cloud Discovery Center (Laurie Leitch)
* **Deaf ABE**, St. Paul (Sarah Hoggard)
* **Minnesota Department of Corrections**, multiple facilities (Theresa Luther-Dolan)
* **Hiawatha Valley**, Red Wing and Southeast Technical College (Jill Rivard)
* **Lakeville,** (Tracie Kreighbaum)
* **Metro East,** Forest Lake, Roseville (Tad Hagen)
* **Metro North,** Anoka, Blaine and Elk River (Theresa Zingery)
* **Metro South,** Bloomington (Kellie McGowan)
* **Minneapolis,** Minneapolis Adult Education North and South Campuses (Anthony Williams)
* **Northwest ABE Region,** Alexandria, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls and Moorhead (Amy Fish)
* **Northwest Service Cooperative,** Bemidji, East Grand Forks, Thief River Falls, Wadena (Kirsten Fuglseth)
* **Osseo,** (Emily Watts)
* **Robbinsdale,** Crystal Learning Center (David Esposito)
* **Rochester,** Hawthorne Education Center (Nadine Holthaus)
* **Southeast ABE**, Faribault
* **Southwest ABE Region**, Blue Earth, Granite Falls, Hutchison, LeSueur, Mankato, Marshall, New Ulm, Pipestone, St. Peter, Sleepy Eye, Willmar and Worthington (Karen Wolters)
* **St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium**, Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning (Renada Rutmanis)

### Collaboratively Leading Implementation

Primary entities developing the standard adult diploma and aiding local implementation with approved Adult Basic Education (ABE) consortia include the Minnesota Department of Education and an adult diploma working group with stakeholder input from partners.

## For More Information

To find the program near you, contact the Minnesota Adult Literacy Hotline at:

**1-800-222-1990 or www.mnliteracy.org/hotline.**

* Statutory authority can be found in Minnesota State Statute 124D.52 (Subd. 8-9)
* If you have additional questions, contact Brad Hasskamp at [brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us](mailto:brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us) or (651) 582-8594