



Statement on Contact Hour Reporting for FY22 State and Federal ABE Funding

September 23, 2020

This summer the Adult Education Team at the Minnesota Department of Education worked with Literacy Action Network to convene a special working group of ABE program representatives from around the state to analyze the ongoing COVID related disruptions and recommend a contact hour period for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22, funding from July 2021-June 2022) state and federal ABE funding. **The working group recommended reusing the March 14, 2019-March 13, 2020 hours for FY22 in order to give programs a chance to report a non-COVID related disruption period and to hold ABE programs harmless financially during this time. This recommendation is approved and supported by the Literacy Action Network Board.**

The Minnesota Department of Education's Adult Education Team and Lead Financial Staff approve, support and will implement this proposal.

One likely scenario for the upcoming fiscal year is that total statewide ABE funding will remain the same. In that case, consortia will get the same amount of funding in fiscal year 2022 as in the current fiscal year. If there is a change in the statewide total amount of ABE funding, funding award amounts for consortia could change. If there is a significant change in ABE funding, we plan to reconvene the working group to discuss and adapt their recommendation.

What does this mean for ABE programs?

The MDE Adult Education Team's key message continues to be: We hope you will continue to serve ABE learners as best you can, utilizing all effective methods of communication and instruction, including those that can't currently be counted for contact hours. This announcement on FY22 funding will allow you and your program to focus on serving your learners and your community.

Questions and more information

Questions about this statement can be directed to Jodi Versaw (jodi.versaw@state.mn.us).

This statement, along with other Minnesota ABE statements and updates, can be found online at the Minnesota Adult Basic Education site (www.mnabe.org).