



Minnesota Standard Adult High School Diploma

Minnesota's Standard Adult High School Diploma is a competency-based secondary credential awarded by the Minnesota Department of Education to adults that submit an approved electronic portfolio through an authorized Standard Adult Diploma program in an Adult Education (ABE) program.

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.

Competencies for the Minnesota Standard Adult High School Diploma are based on [Minnesota K-12 Standards](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/index.htm) (<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/index.htm>) 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

Content Domains

In order to earn their Standard Adult High School Diploma students must demonstrate competency in five domains:

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

Domain	Areas
	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

Options for Demonstrating Competency

Standard Adult Diploma students have choices in creating their individual learning plan and portfolio. Students may demonstrate competency through any combination of the following options:

- High school credits
- Test-verified knowledge (including GED, HiSET, Accuplacer, MCA and others)
- Adult education instruction
- Applied and experiential learning
- Other prior experiences, credits or skills

Student Eligibility and Process

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

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

Initial Advising

- Identify student goals
- Administer an approved pre-test assessment (CASAS or TABE)
- Assess student skills and experience to determine competencies that may already be complete and which need to be developed
- Develop an individualized learning plan based on the student's identified goals and skills

Instruction and Evaluation

- Implement individualized learning plan
- Track progress towards diploma and goals
- Update and adapt individualized learning plan and student portfolio
- Provide additional support services

- After sufficient instruction, administer an approved post-test assessment (CASAS or TABE)

Graduating Advising

- Submit completed portfolio with evidence and student-produced work for review
- Respond to results of review if additional work or evidence is requested
- Complete transitions plan to continue work on student's next steps beyond graduation

Standard Adult High School Diploma Availability Across Minnesota

Currently, 28 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.

- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA)
- Adult Options in Education
- Alexandria
- Brainerd
- Burnsville
- Cass Lake-Bena-Walker
- Central Minnesota
- Glacial Lakes
- Hiawatha Valley
- Lakeville
- Lakes Area Adult Education
- LeSueur
- Mankato
- Metro East
- Metro North
- Metro South
- Minneapolis
- Minnesota Department of Corrections
- Moorhead
- Northwest Service Cooperative
- Osseo
- Robbinsdale
- Rochester
- Southeast ABE
- Southwest ABE
- St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium
- ThinkSelf Deaf ABE
- White Earth ABE