

Literacy Minnesota: Adult Basic Education 2009 Legislative Platform



- **Core Funding:** Literacy Minnesota supports continued full funding of ABE as authorized under current state law.
- **Supplemental Services:** Change statutory language to indicate that no more than 20% of allocated funds for supplemental services may go to one provider.
- **Economic Development:** Literacy Minnesota supports expansion of successful pilot programming with Workforce Councils for projects facilitating transitions of low-income ABE students into post secondary training for high-needs jobs, helping them to become more competitive in the labor market.

During a recession...

During times of economic stress, ABE is crucial in helping unemployed adults improve basic skills needed for future employment. As recessions deepen, the number of Minnesotans accessing ABE increases. During the last economic downturn in 2002-04, the number of adults served through Minnesota ABE set new records, surpassing 81,000 each year (a 60% increase from four years earlier).

“We know individuals who receive at least one year of post-secondary education are far less likely to be poor than those who have not,” states the preliminary report of the *Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020*. A GED by itself will not insure economic success. **Short-term post-secondary training** for occupations such as certified nursing assistant, phlebotomist, commercial truck driver, boiler technician, Nutrition and Food Safety Specialist, Child Development Assistant, and the trades can help insure living wage jobs.

Minnesota ABE is in the midst of a focused three-year effort to help students transition effectively into such post-secondary education and training. ABE is committed to providing all adult learners with the communication skills, academic knowledge, and study habits that will enable them to successfully complete post-secondary training in fields leading to living wage jobs.

Minnesota ABE has spent the past several years retooling programs to tie them even more closely to **enhanced economic outcomes for individuals and families** – and the larger community. It is especially important that these services be preserved and strengthened during times of economic stress and recession.