



# SUPPORTING ALL MINNESOTANS THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## WHO WE ARE

Community Education is a statewide system that reaches **all communities** through local schools and school districts. We are **responsive** to our communities and, for over 50 years, have been **meeting locally identified needs** of youth and adults. We are focused on **building sustainability** to continue serving our diverse communities for the next 50 years.

## HOW WE SERVE

We create systems and programs to meet the needs of **ALL** of our communities. Through purposeful engagement, Community Education ensures accessibility to quality opportunities and resources that are inclusive of the needs of **ALL** community members in order to eliminate opportunity gaps, grow as individuals, and positively impact communities.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO...

### Increase **General Community Education levy**

#### **WHY?**

The General Community Education levy has remained flat since 2005.

#### **THE IMPACT**

These funds provide program sustainability and accessibility for all Minnesotans, and allow us to meet the needs of communities by tailoring services across all community education programs.

### Increase **funding for Adults with Disabilities programs** and ensure equitable distribution

#### **WHY?**

The current Adults with Disabilities (AWD) funding structure is underfunded and is not equitably distributed or available to all Minnesota communities.

#### **THE IMPACT**

To appropriately fund AWD programming to meet the current needs in our communities and provide equitable access across the state, this funding requires revisioning.

### Expand **school-age care special needs levy** to allow programs to serve the needs of children ages 3 to 14

#### **WHY?**

Currently, school districts can levy for the additional costs associated with serving children with disabilities in kindergarten through grade six while they attend school-age care programs.

#### **THE IMPACT**

Expanding this levy to include children ages 3 to 14 (preK through middle school) allows districts to provide support for more learners to engage in high quality school-age care programs.

# MCEA ALSO SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES:

## SUPPORT FOR QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

**Advance a diverse, high quality, equitably compensated Early Childhood workforce**

Ensuring families have access to high quality early childhood programs demands a qualified workforce. Access to teacher preparatory programs and equitable compensation are necessary to attract early childhood professionals who reflect and understand the background, cultures and languages of the children in our classrooms. Any funding proposals need to ensure equitable pay.

**Design sustainable funding for school-based Early Childhood Education to support families and ensure equitable access to high quality programs**

Closing the achievement and opportunity gaps depends on expanded access to quality early learning opportunities. Early childhood education programs require sustainable funding to provide consistency in serving children and families. Over 7,000 students are served annually in School Readiness Plus (SR Plus) and Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) programs. Funding for these programs will expire on June 30, 2023.

**Expand statewide leadership support for Early Childhood Family Education programs**

Parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) provides space for parents and children to engage in learning activities together. When families are supported in their parenting journey, outcomes improve for children. Statewide leadership support and attracting and retaining parent educators of color will ensure ECFE continues to evolve and serve our diverse communities.

## SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL YOUTH AND ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Expand access to high quality out-of-school time activities for youth**

Community Education provides high quality, safe and engaging classes for students outside of the school day. These programs put youth voice and choice at the center and allow them to develop academic and social-emotional skills, build new friendships, and explore careers, college and life passions. Access to youth programs has eroded over time due to insufficient funding and restrictive income limits for financial support. Increasing support and access in these programs provides quality learning and development experiences for all Minnesota youth.

**Support the evolving needs of adult learners in Adult Basic Education (ABE)**

Align ABE contact hour reimbursement to the percentage increase of the K12 formula in order to support the evolving needs of adult learners and our state's workforce. ABE programs serve adult learners and strengthen workforce skills through classes in Career Pathways, Adult Diploma, GED, English as a Second Language (ESL or EL), Family Literacy, Basic Skills Enhancement, Workplace Literacy, and U.S. Citizenship/Civics.

**Ensure all students have access to learn safe driving skills and obtain a driver's license**

Increase access for those who are 16 years and older to obtain a driver's license by providing online, instructor-based models that ensure student engagement and develop pathways for individuals from underserved communities.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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