

Community Education *is Here For You*

Minnesota Community Education Association (MCEA)



In life, our needs ebb and flow. Sometimes there's rhyme and reason to our circumstances, sometimes there is not. But when life allows us to develop a skill; when the only thing missing is additional training; when you're new in town and need familiarity; ***we're here for you.***

Community Education is here to create opportunities of **impact, partnership and belonging** that connect our community members more closely to the heart of life.

Connect With Us to Learn More

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That's Community Ed!

Community Education is

a statewide initiative reaching every community in Minnesota through local schools and school districts. For more than 50 years, local community education programs have partnered with communities across the state to address local community needs. We create impactful programming for ALL participants to feel a sense of belonging in their community. We ensure access to quality opportunities and resources that are inclusive of the needs of ALL residents in order to eliminate opportunity gaps, positively impact communities, and encourage them to grow as individuals.

Additional investments are also needed to serve learners of all ages.

Legislative support is needed to ensure program sustainability.

Funding Priorities:

Increase General Community Education funding for the first time in 17 years



The General Community Education levy has remained flat since 2005. These funds provide program sustainability and accessibility for all, allowing us to meet the unique needs of communities by tailoring services through a vast array of community education programs.

Increase funding for Adults with Disabilities programs and ensure equitable distribution



The current Adults with Disabilities (AWD) funding structure is underfunded and is not equitably distributed or available to all communities. AWD programming is essential to ensuring the quality of life for our most vulnerable residents. Funding for AWD must be increased to provide equal access across Minnesota communities and address these current and growing needs.

Community education creates opportunities of impact, partnership and belonging.

Early Learning Investments

Design sustainable funding for school-based Early Childhood Education

Over 7,000 Minnesota 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. Closing 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 all children and families.

Increase Early Childhood Developmental Screening Aid

Early childhood screening is required by the State of Minnesota for entrance into kindergarten in a public school. The purpose of early childhood screening is to identify any potential learning and/or health concerns in children ages 3, 4, 5 or 6 so they can access services they need before starting kindergarten. MCEA recommends increasing the state aid paid to school districts for each child who is screened:



Age of child screened	Reimbursement per child	
	Current	Proposed
3	\$75	\$98
4	\$50	\$65
5	\$40	\$52
Within 30 days after enrolling in kindergarten	\$30	\$39



Community Education is about connection and lifelong learning.

Adult Basic Education Investments

Increase Adult Basic Education Consortium Revenue Cap

Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs serve adult learners and strengthen workforce skills through many programs, including 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. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused significant decreases in participation for many statewide ABE programs. The current “contact hour cap” cap will negatively impact smaller consortia in greater Minnesota, resulting in reduced opportunities for adult learners. In this tight employment market, it is essential that we continue to invest in ABE programs. Increasing the cap will protect outstate ABE programs, have a negligible impact on other community education programs, and support the evolving needs of adult learners and our workforce across Minnesota.

Consortium Gross Revenue per Contact Hour Cap	
Current	Proposed
\$22	\$30

**Through impact, partnership and belonging,
Community Education tells the stories of lifelong learning
and connection throughout Minnesota.**



Impact: Jump starting each child's educational journey.

For many children, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and preschool are the first times they have a chance to interact with other adults and children outside of their families. Quality early childhood programs, like this one at Anoka-Hennepin's Riverview Early Childhood Center in Brooklyn Park, build a foundation for success for young learners and provide them with the skills they need to be ready for kindergarten.

Partnership: Bridging the educational gap.

Shakopee Community Education has partnered with Mi CASA, which works to bridge educational gaps facing the local Latino population. This unique summer program is available to children and their families at little or no cost, providing arts, STEM and physical education programming as well as amazing connections among participants.



Belonging: Providing life changing opportunities for all.

Community Education provides life changing opportunities for all ages and abilities. One participant's personal care assistant encouraged her to join an adult education class to exercise and socialize. Her confidence grew and now she feels challenged and successful!