



2451 Eagle Ridge Drive • Red Wing, MN 55066  
Office & Registration – 651-385-4656 • Website – [www.hvae.org](http://www.hvae.org)

## **STATE ABE**

**Mission:** The mission of Adult Basic Education (ABE) in Minnesota is to provide adults with educational opportunities to acquire and improve their literacy skills necessary to become self-sufficient and to participate effectively as productive workers, family members, and citizens.

**Adult Basic Education addresses a variety of learner goals. ABE helps learners to:**

- Achieve high school equivalency (GED or Adult H.S. Diploma)
- Learn to speak, read and write the English language
- Attain skills necessary to enter post-secondary education and training
- Exit public welfare and become self-sufficient
- Attain employment and/or better their current employment
- Conduct career investigation and training opportunities

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for ABE, an individual must be 17 or over, not enrolled in secondary school, and/or functioning below the 12th grade level in any of the basic academic areas including reading, math, writing and speaking English.

**Delivery System:** Federal and state funds appropriated for the purposes of administering Minnesota's ABE program flow through the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Local school districts can form a consortium of members who will administer an ABE program in their region. There are 44 ABE consortia in Minnesota, not all of them are part of a school district. Federal and state ABE money is requested through an annual grant process and this money is used for operating the program regionally.

**ABE Funding:** Funding for an ABE consortium is based on the combined population in the consortium region, number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and No Diploma Count in the consortium region. The funding is also based on the number of enrollees and contact hours from the prior program year. Some funding also comes from private industry partnerships and/or local grants.

**ABE Standards:** Minnesota ABE programs focus on getting students to transition into workplace (career), training and/or skill improvement. The three standard areas are basic skills (College and Career Readiness Standards - CCRS), digital literacy skills (Northstar Digital Literacy) and professional/soft skills (ACES).

**Personnel:** ABE teachers employed by Minnesota public schools are required to hold a valid and current elementary, secondary, or ABE State of Minnesota teaching license. A person who possesses a bachelor's or master's degree in English as a second language, applied linguistics, or bilingual education, or who possesses a related degree as approved by the commissioner, may teach ELL in an adult basic education program.



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## **About Hiawatha Valley Adult Education**

Red Wing Community Education ISD#256 is the fiscal agent for the local ABE program in this region, called Hiawatha Valley Adult Education (HVAE). Consortium members are in the following school districts: Cannon Falls, Goodhue, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Lake City, Red Wing, Wabasha-Kellogg, and Zumbrota-Mazeppa. The main office for the HVAE consortium is located in the Red Wing Community Education office. There is more information and registration links on our website at [www.hvae.org](http://www.hvae.org).

### **HVAE Programs**

**Adult Basic Education (ABE):** The term “general ABE” refers to the instruction offered to individuals whose first language is English and who possess literacy skills below the 12th grade level. Classes in ABE may include reading, math and/or writing instruction, transition to post-secondary training, basic job skills preparation such as pre-literate computer skills, resume prep, or pre-certification prep for a specific job skill. Classes are individualized for each student depending on the student needs, using a hybrid model of computer curriculum and certified teacher working in a one room school house.

**English Language Learning (ELL):** English Language Learning classes teach English to adults whose primary language is not English. Adults needing ELL instruction comprise a large and growing portion of the workforce in many Minnesota communities. Although they possess the knowledge, skills, and talents to contribute to our society, their limited English proficiency may restrict their economic and social opportunities to do so. English Language Learners (ELL) may participate in classes which teach specific life skills topics, specific job skills, reading/writing English, and/or conversation vocabulary.

**GED® Exam Preparation:** One of the most common ABE programs is GED® exam preparation, a course of study that prepares non-high school graduates for the Tests of General Educational Development (GED®). Successful completion of the GED® test battery results in the awarding of the State of Minnesota GED® Diploma.

The GED® test battery is a computer based test that consists of four separate examinations that measure the major and lasting outcomes associated with a high school education. The four tests are English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics.

Participation in GED® classes is not required to take the test however students under the age of 19 must obtain a waiver to take the GED® test and this waiver can be attained with HVAE participation.

**Adult High School Diploma:** One of the common goals of ABE learners is the attainment of their high school diploma. HVAE offers a high school diploma program, with an arrangement with Red Wing Public Schools that authorizes the granting of the credential. HVAE also offers the State of Minnesota High School diploma as a diploma option. Students meet competencies in English Language Arts, Math, Social and Science as well as competencies in Career Development and Digital Literacy. Students have to be 19 years or older to receive the adult diploma. The Minnesota Department of Education confers this diploma.

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Serving the school districts of Cannon Falls, Goodhue, Lake City, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Red Wing,  
Wabasha-Kellogg and Zumbrota-Mazeppa



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**Workforce Preparation Classes:** HVAE currently offers CDL permit preparation, paraprofessional test preparation, and administrative assistant training classes in a hybrid class format. Healthcare literacy is a new class being offered this summer. Manufacturing for persons with criminal backgrounds is offered once a year in cooperation with Minnesota State College Southeast and CareerForce.

**Developmental Education:** Students who score below a certain level on the Nextgen Accuplacer Math and Reading test are referred to HVAE to work to improve their basic skills to prepare them to be successful in a postsecondary setting.

**Computer Literacy:** Computer literacy classes are available for HVAE students as well as people referred by WDI staff as people needing to improve their computer literacy skills. This class is held at the Red Wing Public Library.

**Additional Classes:** Programming in career preparation, financial literacy, and basic skill improvement are offered at the Goodhue County Detention Center. New classes are added as needed.

**HVAE Class Sites:** Classes are offered in some but not all of the consortium members' communities during the program year. Location of class sites are determined based on need, availability of funds, and potential participation numbers. Because funding is based on the number of contact hours and number of students enrolled from the prior year, some locations would not be economically feasible for offering classes. If there are less than 6-10 potential students in a geographic area it does not warrant setting up a class site. However, students should be referred to the nearest operating class site in the consortium. HVAE staff will meet individually with a student that cannot come to Red Wing and set up a schedule for when the student can meet with the teacher. Students will work with a teacher through a hybrid model of both in person and online learning.

## How to Become a HVAE Student

Anyone interested in any of our programs are encouraged to register online at [hvae.org](http://hvae.org). Once the registration is received, the HVAE navigator contacts the person and sets up a registration/orientation session. New students are given a CASAS reading and math test before they begin classes.