



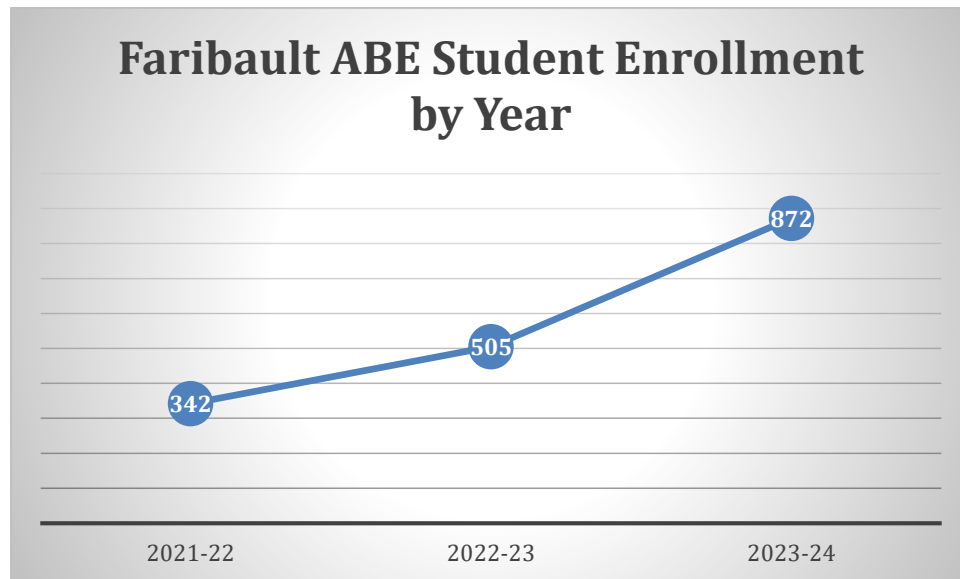
710 17th St. SW, Faribault, MN 55021

Office: 507-333-6000 | Fax: 507-333-6050

## MEMORANDUM

To: Finance Committee  
From: Cassie Riopelle, Adult Education Coordinator  
Zach Pruitt, Community Education & Engagement Director  
Date: April 4, 2024  
RE: Adult Education College & Career Navigator

The Faribault Adult Education program has seen rapid increases in participation over the past three years.



2023-24 numbers through March 31, 2024

Most importantly, Faribault ABE participants are seeing impressive results. In fact, Faribault's program rated **#2 in the state** in terms of the percentage of its students (46.7%) who achieved a Measurable Skills Gain (defined as graduating, earning a diploma/certificate, and/or advancing to the next grade level).



710 17th St. SW, Faribault, MN 55021

Office: 507-333-6000 | Fax: 507-333-6050

In addition, the department is playing an increased role in helping to re-engage former Faribault Public Schools students who dropped out of school or discontinued schooling during the pandemic. Whereas ABE helped 13 people earn their GED or diploma last year, 41 students have already earned their diploma this year (with three months left to go in the year!).

In addition, based on requests from participants, the program has expanded its career pathways programming to not only help adult learners earn certificates and degrees, but to also provide the ongoing navigation, job coaching, and wraparound supports needed to help these adults access careers in local in-demand professions (ones that pay living-wage, family-supporting salaries). There are now a total of 43 adults enrolled in the ABE's career pathways in the fields of health care, advanced manufacturing, education, and social work. In addition to taking courses specific to their career goals, these individuals meet regularly with staff, who help them overcome education, career, and family obstacles that they encounter and connect them with wraparound resources needed for them to be successful.

Based on the results Faribault ABE is seeing, the program has received a number of highly competitive grants in recent months to expand this navigation work. As a result, we request to add a full-time Navigator.

**Budget Impact: \$93,349.00/year; reflects full-time, year-round position, including benefits and payroll taxes**

**This request will have no impact on the Faribault Public Schools' General Fund.** Instead, the position would be funded by:

- Recently awarded State of Minnesota grants, including Pathways to Prosperity (\$160,000), Drive for Five (\$300,000), and Intervention for College Attendance (\$43,000)
- Private grants
- ABE and Community Education budget reallocations

**Final Funding Note:** There will not be an expectation that this role would **ever** be funded by the General Fund. The Community Education Department will continually evaluate the need for



710 17th St. SW, Faribault, MN 55021

Office: 507-333-6000 | Fax: 507-333-6050

the position. If program participation significantly declines and/or the role becomes unnecessary, it will be eliminated.

If its continuation is warranted, Community Education will actively seek additional grant resources to fund it. In addition, the increased numbers of individuals served by Faribault ABE will also ultimately result in increased ABE revenue from the State that will be able to help address some of the position's funding needs in the future. Again, however, no General Funds will be used for this role now or in the future.