



**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Lisa Grathen, Director of Community Education

**DATE:** June 15, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Approval of South Suburban Adult Basic Education Consortium Agreement Renewal for July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

### **BACKGROUND**

South Suburban Adult Basic Education's (SSABE) mission is to provide adults in the TriDistrict Area of Northern Dakota County with educational opportunities to acquire and improve the literacy skills necessary to become self-sufficient and to participate effectively as productive workers, family members, and citizens. SSABE works towards this mission by providing students with highly qualified and effective staff who create innovative scopes and sequences in curriculum models and test for content mastery in the classroom.

SSABE is located in Northern Dakota County in the Central Square Community Education Center (CSCEC) in South St. Paul. SSABE serves the communities and school districts of South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan Area, and Inver Grove Heights. This consortium is a part of the TriDistrict Community Education Department. According to the 2020 census, approximately 5,762 TriDistrict adult residents have not earned a high school diploma. This represents approximately 5.8% of the total TriDistrict adult resident population. According to the US Census Bureau (2020), 9.3% of the TriDistrict population was foreign-born. Nearly 9,000 people in these communities do not speak English as their primary language at home, and 970 of them have been identified by local school districts as having limited English proficiency.

SSABE offers a variety of classes during the day and in the evenings. We served a total of 181 students during the 2025-2026 school year.

All SSABE staff participate in ongoing professional development in diversity, inclusion, white privilege, racism, and equity. The program embraces all cultures and students, and it strives to provide them with the best instruction to meet their individual needs. SSABE is working to include the voices of all students.. Staff are committed to this lifelong journey.

South St. Paul Public Schools manages the SSABE program and serves as its fiscal agent; the program is audited each year as part of the District's annual audit.

### **RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the School Board of Independent School District No. 197 to renew the South Suburban Adult Basic Education Consortium Agreement for July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.