



MEMORANDUM

To: Finance Committee
From: Cassie Riopelle, Adult Education Coordinator
Zach Pruitt, Community Education & Engagement Director
Date: January 16, 2023
RE: Faribault Education Center Manager

The Faribault Adult Education program has seen significant increases in participation. Whereas much of the State saw declining adult education enrollment last year, Faribault's program exploded, growing over the past year from 342 students (FY22) to 505 students (FY23). Continuing to build on this momentum, the program has already served 628 students this school year (FY24). Most importantly, Faribault ABE participants are seeing great 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).

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. Finally, ABE has expanded its navigation role in helping more adults pursue career pathways (via both education and employment) to secure living-wage jobs.

To meet these increased demands and continue to effectively serve our adult participants, the department needs to continue to evolve. Leadership has spent considerable time exploring different models and possibilities for achieving this. As a next step in this effort, the FEC Manager position would help manage ABE-funded grant projects, expand employer-based offerings, explore online course offerings, and oversee program volunteers.



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Budget Request: \$68,010/year for a full-time, year-round position, plus benefits

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 over two years) and Youth at Work (\$166,000 over two years)
- Expanded ABE revenue from increased participation (both from the State and through employer contracts for work-based learning)
- Private grants secured (\$40,000 from Otto Bremer Trust)
- ABE and Community Education budget reallocations