



The Voice of Adult Education in Massachusetts

FY 2018 BUDGET REQUEST FOR ABE LINE ITEM #7035-0002

Increase FY 2018 funding for ABE line item #7035-0002 by \$2,644,444 for a total appropriation of \$31,468,517:

- Restore \$644,444 in 9C cuts made in December 2016
- Increase funding by \$2 million
 - \$800,000 to move approximately 445 adults off waiting lists and into classrooms (445 adults at approximately \$1,800 per adult)
 - \$600,000 for curriculum development to meet the rigors of the College and Career Readiness Standards, and link basic skills instruction to skills needed in the current labor market
 - \$600,000 to improve working conditions and compensation for adult education staff to reduce turnover, increase continuity of teaching, counseling and program staff, and increase program quality
- Since FY01, ABE has lost 40% of its purchasing power.
 - FY01 funding had purchasing power of \$30.2 million.
 - Adjusted for inflation, FY16 purchasing power is only \$18.0 million.

ABE: WHAT'S AT STAKE

1 in 10 MA adults over age 25 does not have a high school credential.

http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt¹

1.1 million MA adults are ill-equipped to meet the demands of the state's rapidly changing economy.²

<http://massinc.org/research/new-skills-for-a-new-economy/>

1 in 11 in MA does not speak English very well.³

http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_DP02&src=pt

More than 16,000 adults are on the waiting lists for ABE programs.⁴ www.doe.mass.edu/acls

ABE funding is only 0.40% of the state's FY16 budget for education.⁵

<http://www.massbudget.org/browser/cat.php?id=Education>

ABE: MA DOESN'T WORK WITHOUT IT

Economic Inequality

The average high school dropout in Massachusetts can expect to earn \$9,642 less per year than someone with a high school credential, \$16,335 less than someone with some college or an associate's degree, and \$33,822 less than someone with a bachelor's degree.⁶

K-12 Education

The best indicator of a child's success in school is the education level of the parents.⁷

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2853053/>

Health

Low literacy is linked to increased mortality, hospitalization, poorer control of chronic illness, more frequent hospitalization and underuse of preventative services.⁸

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058328>;
<http://www.aafp.org/afp/2005/0801/p387.html>

Civic Engagement

In 2008, 34% of those without a high school diploma voted, compared to 51% with a high school credential.⁹
https://www.ets.org/s/research/19386/rsc/pdf/18719_fault_lines_report.pdf

Criminal Justice

Among dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24, incarceration rates were 63 times higher than among college graduates, and 70% of offenders never finished high school.¹⁰

http://www.northeastern.edu/clms/wp-content/uploads/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_HighSchool.pdf

Poverty

25.4% of MA adults over age 25 who do not have a high school credential live in poverty compared to 11.8% of those with a high school credential.¹¹

ABE: RETURN ON INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

A high school credential (HiSET) increases earning potential, self-sufficiency, consumer spending and tax revenue.

- A high school credential increases a MA adult's earning potential by \$9,642 per year.¹²
- Approximately 456,134 adults in MA over age 25 do not have a high school credential, **representing a potential annual loss in earnings of \$4,398,044,028** (456,134 x \$9,642).¹³
- Approximately 472 adults received their high school credential in FY 2015 through state-funded ABE programs, **increasing their collective earning potential by \$4,551,024** (472 x \$9,642).¹⁴

Gainful employment reduces the cost of unemployment benefits paid by the state.

- 1,351 adults in ABE programs kept their current jobs in FY15 and an additional 660 adults gained employment.¹⁵
- The unemployment rate for individuals without a high school credential was 9.4% in 2014 compared to the overall rate of 4.67%.¹⁶

- The average unemployment benefit in MA in 2015 was \$7,942.¹⁷
- Adults who kept their jobs or gained employment in FY15 as a result of ABE **potentially saved Massachusetts \$15,971,362 annually in unemployment benefits** (2011 adults x \$7,942).¹⁸

Education reduces recidivism and incarceration costs, crime and the number of people receiving public assistance.

- 46% of the male population and 31% of the female population entered the MA Department of Corrections with less than a 9th grade reading level.¹⁹
- In FY14, the average cost per year to house an inmate was \$53,040.87 compared to \$59,607 to attend Harvard University for a year.²⁰
- According to a MA Department of Corrections recidivism study in 2006, receiving a high school diploma reduced recidivism by 17%.²¹
- Graduating college can reduce recidivism by 72%.²²

ENDNOTES AND REFERENCES

¹ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt

² <http://massinc.org/research/new-skills-for-a-new-economy/>

³ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_DP02&src=pt

⁴ www.doe.mass.edu/acls

⁵ <http://www.massbudget.org/browser/cat.php?id=Education>

⁶ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt

⁷ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2853053/>

⁸ <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMOp058328>; <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2005/0801/p387.html>

⁹ https://www.ets.org/s/research/19386/rsc/pdf/18719_fault_lines_report.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.northeastern.edu/clms/wp-content/uploads/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_HighSchool.pdf

¹¹ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt

¹² http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt

¹³ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt

¹⁴ Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services, FY 2015 Federal Reports – Table 5

¹⁵ Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services, FY 2015 Federal Reports – Table 5

¹⁶ http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/pdf/MA_Economic_and_Labor_Review_2014.pdf (page 16)

¹⁷ http://www.oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data_stats/datasum14/DataSum_2014_1.pdf (page 34)

¹⁸ Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services, FY 2015 Federal Reports – Table 5;

http://www.oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data_stats/datasum14/DataSum_2014_1.pdf (page 34)

¹⁹ <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/doc/research-reports/pop-trends/prisonopptrends-2014-05042015-final.pdf>

²⁰ www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/doc; www.collegecalc.org

²¹ <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/doc/research-reports/450.pdf> (page 31)

²² C. A. Chappell, "Post Secondary Correctional Education and Recidivism: a Meta-Analysis of Research Conducted 1990-1999," *Journal of Correctional Education* 55, no. 2 (2004): 148-169. M. E. Batiuk, "The State of Post-Secondary Education in Ohio," *Journal of Correctional Education* 48, no. 2 (1997): 70-72.

Additional resource: <http://www.mcgraw-hillresearchfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/the-return-on-investment-from-adult-education-and-training.pdf>