



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=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt)<sup>1</sup>

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

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

**1 in 11** in MA does not speak English very well.<sup>3</sup>

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_DP02&src=pt](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.<sup>4</sup> [www.doe.mass.edu/acls](http://www.doe.mass.edu/acls)

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

<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.<sup>6</sup>

## K-12 Education

The best indicator of a child's success in school is the education level of the parents.<sup>7</sup>  
<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.<sup>8</sup>  
[http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058328;](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.<sup>9</sup>  
[https://www.ets.org/s/research/19386/rsc/pdf/18719\\_fault\\_lines\\_report.pdf](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.<sup>10</sup>  
[http://www.northeastern.edu/clms/wp-content/uploads/The\\_Consequences\\_of\\_Dropping\\_Out\\_of\\_HighSchool.pdf](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.<sup>11</sup>

# 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.<sup>12</sup>
- 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).<sup>13</sup>
- 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).<sup>14</sup>

## 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.<sup>15</sup>
- The unemployment rate for individuals without a high school credential was 9.4% in 2014 compared to the overall rate of 4.67%.<sup>16</sup>

- The average unemployment benefit in MA in 2015 was \$7,942.<sup>17</sup>
- 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).<sup>18</sup>

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level.<sup>19</sup>
- 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.<sup>20</sup>
- According to a MA Department of Corrections recidivism study in 2006, receiving a high school diploma reduced recidivism by 17%.<sup>21</sup>
- Graduating college can reduce recidivism by 72%.<sup>22</sup>

## ENDNOTES AND REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_S1501&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt)

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

<sup>3</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_DP02&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_DP02&src=pt)

<sup>4</sup> [www.doe.mass.edu/acls](http://www.doe.mass.edu/acls)

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

<sup>6</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_S1501&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt)

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

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058328>; <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2005/0801/p387.html>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.ets.org/s/research/19386/rsc/pdf/18719\\_fault\\_lines\\_report.pdf](https://www.ets.org/s/research/19386/rsc/pdf/18719_fault_lines_report.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.northeastern.edu/clms/wp-content/uploads/The\\_Consequences\\_of\\_Dropping\\_Out\\_of\\_HighSchool.pdf](http://www.northeastern.edu/clms/wp-content/uploads/The_Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_HighSchool.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_S1501&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt)

<sup>12</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_S1501&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt)

<sup>13</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_S1501&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_S1501&src=pt)

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

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

<sup>16</sup> [http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/pdf/MA\\_Economic\\_and\\_Labor\\_Review\\_2014.pdf](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/pdf/MA_Economic_and_Labor_Review_2014.pdf) (page 16)

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data\\_stats/datasum14/DataSum\\_2014\\_1.pdf](http://www.oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data_stats/datasum14/DataSum_2014_1.pdf) (page 34)

<sup>18</sup> 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](http://www.oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data_stats/datasum14/DataSum_2014_1.pdf) (page 34)

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

<sup>20</sup> [www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/doc](http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/doc); [www.collegecalc.org](http://www.collegecalc.org)

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

<sup>22</sup> 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>