

Section Six: Program Resources

6.1 Describe the use of technology, both in-person and at a distance/hybrid learning, to improve student access to programming, enhance the quality of instruction, and lead to improved outcomes for students.

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ABE has dedicated significant funding to provide a variety of technology resources for students and staff. We have utilized state, federal, and local District levy money to purchase technology hardware.

- Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ABE has a 1:1 device-to-student ratio for classroom use. Each classroom has a mobile cart of Chromebooks. The devices are regularly used in each classroom as an integrated part of student instruction. All classrooms also have a Smart Board.
- Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ABE has two well-equipped computer labs - one at each of our sites. Each lab has 18 student computers, one teaching computer, and a Smart Board. The GED classrooms and tutor rooms have additional desktops.
 - ABE classes utilize the computer lab at least once per week to learn technology skills (based on Northstar Digital Literacy Standards), to access learning software or online programs, and to work on class projects (writing documents, creating presentations, etc.). A computer clerk is employed at each site to manage the labs and mobile carts and provide additional technology support for learners.
 - When school is in session, the computer labs are also available before and after classes for learners to access distance learning platforms, access other educational programs, practice technology skills, and work on class projects and job-related tasks such as resumes or job applications. Our computer clerks assist students during the open computer lab times.
- In addition to our classroom sets of devices, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ABE offers Chromebooks for our distance learning students who need a device to successfully study online from home. We acquired additional Chromebooks for checkout through various funding sources. In the 2020-21 school year, we purchased 30 Chromebooks through our district's Covid Relief Funding and 8 Chromebooks through the state adult education technology funding, and in the 2021-22 school year, we purchased 100 Chromebooks through the Additional ABE Funding.
 - We also provide hot spots to our distance learning students who need internet access.
- Cedar Valley Learning Center is an official Pearson VUE GED Testing Site with four testing stations and four certified test administrators.
- All Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ABE teachers and support staff are provided desktop computers, and all teachers are also provided Mac laptops.
- Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ABE has an excellent network infrastructure supported by District 196. Dakota Valley and Cedar Valley Learning Centers have wireless access for school devices and guest wireless access for student-owned devices.

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Digital literacy skills are contextualized in our curriculum utilizing the Northstar Digital Literacy Standards. See [Section 4.3](#) for more details of how we integrate the Northstar Digital Standards.

- Students receive additional explicit digital literacy instruction during their weekly computer lab visits and open lab times.
- This [spreadsheet](#) shows which standards are taught in each class level.
- We have developed a Northstar Computer Skills [webpage](#) that includes lessons adapted from Northstar Digital Literacy and includes resources for each Northstar Module. These lessons are taught in our classes and used by individual students in our computer lab or at home.
- Students have the opportunity to earn Northstar certificates through proctored tests at both of our sites.
 - 20 students earned Northstar certificates from July 1, 2022 – May 10, 2023.
- Google Sites or Google Classroom is utilized in all EL and GED classes and Schoology is utilized in all ABE diploma classes.
- All students have access to our [resource webpage](#) that includes educational, classroom, community, work, citizenship, and other online resources relevant to ABE learners.
- The integration of technology into our classes teaches students the digital literacy skills they need for success in school, work, and everyday life (e.g., accessing children's classroom reports). Furthermore, technology offers learning tools that improve our students' writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills.

Distance learning (DL) is an important part of our program. It is a valuable mode of education that helps students learn the English, literacy, technology, and online learning skills needed to successfully navigate in today's society. It also enables us to serve students who are unable to attend onsite classes regularly because of barriers such as inconsistent work schedules, transportation issues, or childcare issues. In addition, asynchronous DL platforms allow onsite classroom students and synchronous Zoom classroom students to intensify their learning, helping them progress more quickly. Since the arrival of the Covid pandemic in 2020, we have greatly expanded our DL opportunities beyond asynchronous DL platforms. We now offer synchronous EL Zoom classes in the morning and evening, a synchronous Pre-CNA/PCA Prep Zoom class, and asynchronous DL options for our diploma classes through teacher-created courses on Schoology. In July 2021, we began in-person classes again at both our Cedar Valley and Dakota Valley Learning Centers, but our synchronous online Zoom classes and asynchronous DL options have continued to be successful and in demand learning modes for students.

- Distance Learning (DL)
 - Synchronous DL
 - Four levels of EL are offered through synchronous online learning classes on Zoom in the morning and evening:
 - Monday – Thursday, 9am – 10:30am or 10:30am – 12:00pm

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- Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30pm – 7:00pm or 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- Our Pre-CNA/PCA Preparation Class is offered as an synchronous online learning class on Zoom once per year
 - Tuesday and Thursdays, 12:30pm – 2:30pm for 6 weeks February - March - online
- Asynchronous DL
 - State approved DL platforms are utilized with students in all of our program areas with the support of teachers and technology support staff. Students have studied with the following DL platforms in the 2022-23 school year (in order by most proxy hours earned):
 - MobyMax (our primary DL platform used by high beginning EL through pre-GED learners)
 - USA Learns (used by EL learners)
 - ReadWorks (used by EL learners)
 - Townsend Press (used by Academic Skills/GED learners)
 - Edmentum (used by Academic Skills/GED and diploma students)
 - ReadTheory (used by EL learners)
 - CommonLit (used by Academic Skills/GED students)
 - EdReady (used by Academic Skills/GED students)
 - GED Ready (used by GED students)
 - Typing.com (used by ABE and EL learners learning basic digital literacy skills)
 - Northstar Online Learning (used by ABE and EL learners learning digital literacy skills)
 - Asynchronous distance learning platforms are available for all GED/Academic Skills students to work any time or day of the week. Online synchronous teacher support is available on Zoom:
 - Thursday, 11am – 12pm
 - Thursday, 4:30pm – 7pm
 - State approved teacher developed distance learning courses are utilized with ABE diploma students:
 - Social Studies Distance Learning (includes 13 social studies high school diploma trimester credit courses through the learning management system Schoology)
 - English Distance Learning (includes one American literature and one world literature high school diploma trimester course through the learning management system Schoology)
- In 2022-23, from July 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023:
 - 32.33% of our contact hours were synchronous or asynchronous distance learning hours.

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- 15.26% of our total contact hours were in our synchronous Zoom classes.
- 17.07% of our total contact hours were asynchronous distance learning proxy hours.
- 26.4% of participants earned 12 or more distance learning proxy hours.
 - The Measurable Skills Gain (MSG) rate for learners with 12 or more distance learning proxy hours was 19.8 percentage points higher than the MSG rate for all participants.
- For all of our distance learning options, distance learners are supported by their teacher and distance learning support staff. Learners are pre-tested, trained in the curriculum and technology, and given clear expectations in a face-to-face orientation. Ongoing communication, feedback, and encouragement then take place through email, phone calls, Zoom and/or face-to-face meetings. Onsite post-tests are given to distance learners to measure their progress. Distance learning proxy hours are carefully collected by our trained distance learning staff using the criteria in the state distance learning policy.

Staff participation in distance learning training and leadership:

- **DL 101** (ABE manager as participant and facilitator)
- **DL 102** (ABE manager as participant and facilitator)
- **DL Basics Online Course** (2 teachers and 2 technology clerks)
- **Distance and Blended Learning Basics online course** (all teachers who teach online and technology support staff)
- **Distance Learning Teacher Verification Model (TVM) online training and certification** (3 teachers)
- **MNABE Distance Learning Team** - Program Manager (2010-2016)
- **Distance Learning Virtual Task Force** - Program Manager (2010-2018)
- **MNABE DL Advisory Team** – Program Manager (2019-2021)

6.2 Describe any resources, other than state and federal ABE funding, that are used to support ABE programming. This can include financial resources, such as grant funding or charitable contributions. It can also include coordination with community partners to provide support services such as transportation, counseling or childcare. (Refer to data collected about student barriers in item 2.4. Also refer to items 5.3 and 5.4 as appropriate)

- Sections [2.4](#) and [5.3](#) describe a wealth of additional services and resources that are provided to our students through our numerous partnerships. Some highlights include:
 - **Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District** developed/built and owns our two sites, Cedar Valley and Dakota Valley Learning Centers, and provides capital upkeep. We are only responsible for the operating costs of the sites (cleaning, utilities, equipment, etc.).

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- **Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District** provides technology funding for our computer labs, classroom Chromebook carts, and some Smartboards through its technology levy.
- We partner with **Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ECFE** to provide a family literacy program that includes parent education and preschool instruction and care for the young children of our ABE family school participants.
- We connect students with **Metro Transit** and **Minnesota Valley Transit** to help them find routes and schedules to our sites. If applicable, we refer students to the Transit Link or the MVTA Connect, which transport students directly from their homes to our sites at a reasonable cost (students who do not live near a direct bus route are eligible, which covers most students in our District).
- We partner with **Every Meal** to provide weekly food bags to any interested students.
- Additional grants/funding we have received in addition to regular ABE state and federal aid:
 - **Regional Transitions Aid** has provided additional funding to help develop and support our transitions programming, including Pre-CNA/PCA Preparation IET class, ParaPro prep, and online options of our career classes.
 - **Pathways to Prosperity Grants** provided funding for our teacher for the first year (2018-19) of the Electronics Soldering Technician program with Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) and Goodwill-Easter Seals and funding for collaboration time between our instructor and the DCTC instructor in the second year (2019-20).

Documents for Section Six: Program Resources

[Document O: Technology and Distance/Hybrid Learning Plan](#)