**7.2 Describe the most pressing challenges the consortium is currently facing. Include any ideas for addressing these challenges, but note that it is acceptable to acknowledge and describe challenges even without a proposal for addressing them.**

- Burnsville's biggest challenge is our budget is not growing fast enough to hire enough teachers to meet student demands.
    - The program grew from 38,710 student hours in FY 2021 to 63,544 hours in FY 2022 and then to 87,240 hours in FY 2023.
    - Our program was at a record high for hours in FY 2020, with 70,695, so our growth to 87,240 student hours in FY 2023 was over 23% more than our previous record high.
    - Student contact hours grew 37% from FY 2022 to FY2023.
    - Student contact hours have increased 52% from FY2022 to the projected student contact hours for FY2024.

| ABE Student Contact Hours | |
|---|---|
| Year 2019/2020 | **70,695** |
| Year 2020/2021 | **38,710** |
| Year 2021/2022 | **63,544** |
| Year 2022/2023 | **87,240** |
| Year 2023/2024 (projected) | **97,000** |

Our state and federal funding has increased, but not at a fast enough rate to keep up with staffing needs for students. Even though our student contact hours have increased 37% from FY2022 to FY2023, our budget has only increased 12%. Because our program grew significantly, we hit our growth cap several times, which means we don't get the full funding for all of our contact hours. We understand that this is how the ABE funding formula works, but we wish there was a way to build our funding to keep up with student demand.

**ABE State Entitlement Calculation Report**

**2023-24 Consortium: 0191-01 Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calc Run Date: | **08/07/2023** | Total appropriations: | **51,599,704.62** |
| Census appropriations: | **9,957,321.43** | Contact Hours appropriations: | **34,979,601.88** |
| LEP appropriations: | **3,331,390.66** | Census No Diploma appropriations: | **3,331,390.66** |

| | | ----------Census---------- | | --------Contact Hours-------- | | ------------LEP------------ | | -Census No Diploma- | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Consortium** | | **Count** | **Entitlement** | **Count** | **Entitlement** | **Count** | **Entitlement** | **Count** | **Entitlement** |
| 0191-01 | Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District | 71,881 | 124,354.13 | 86,635.50 | 440,501.81 | 1,872 | 87,225.52 | 2,540 | 22,230.04 |
| | | **@ 1.73** | | **@ 5.08454167** | | **@ 46.59483132** | | **@ 8.75198520** | |
| **Member** | | **Count** | **Entitlement** | **Count** | **Entitlement** | **Count** | **Entitlement** | **Count** | **Entitlement** |
| 0191-01 | Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District | 71,881 | 124,354.13 | | | 1,872 | 87,225.52 | 2,540 | 22,230.04 |
| | Total | 71,881 | 124,354.13 | 86,635.50 | 440,501.81 | 1,872 | 87,225.52 | 2,540 | 22,230.04 |

CAP Amount: **440,501.81**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Entitlement Before CAP: | **674,311.51** | Consortium Entitlement: | **674,311.51** | Gross Entitlement: | **674,311.51** |
| Maximum Amount per Contact Hour: | **30.00** | Per Contact Hour: | **7.78** | Proration Factor: | **1.00** |
| Total Consortium Contact Hours: | **86,635.50** | | | Net Entitlement: | **674,311.51** |

- We have student waitlists for all sections of our morning and evening online ESL classes, as well as waitlists for ⅘ of our ESL night classes. If we had a larger budget, we would be able to hire more teachers to meet the needs of our students.
- We are also faced with the challenge of teachers moving to the K12 Salary Steps and Lanes, which is significantly more expensive. We know that teachers are incredibly valuable and deserve higher salaries, but it's challenging to provide this when our budget is not growing at the same rate as our program.
- If our budget was larger, we would also be able to purchase more chromebooks for our students to be able to use for online, hyflex, hybrid, and/or asynchronous online classes.
- We currently have student waitlists for all five ESL night classes. Some students have been waiting for several months to get into class, but we don't have the budget to hire additional instructors.
- We also have waitlists for two of our morning classes; it would be ideal to be able to hire additional teachers and not place students on wait lists.
- 89% of our state and federal budget goes to ABE Staff salaries and benefits, we do not have room in our budget to replace technology

As our world becomes more and more reliant on technology, keeping up with technology needs becomes a bigger priority for our program.

- We would like to be able to buy chromebooks for use in each of our 6 classrooms, which would cost $60,000 for six classroom sets of 25 chromebooks.
- We also know that we have aging technology that will need to be replaced: 30 laptops that are used in the computer lab were purchased in 2018, so they are almost 6 years old.
- We also have newline panels in each classroom that were purchased in 2021, but when they get older, they will also need to be replaced.
- The 11% growth cap placed on growing programs makes it difficult to secure the additional funding we need to fund our growing program. We are a small district with a large number of ABE students, so we do not get a large amount of funding from our census numbers.