

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.

Rochester Adult Education (RAE) offers a variety of hardware and software tools designed to enhance the learning experience for both staff and students. Each staff member is provided with a laptop, utilizing technology as a means to enrich educational activities. Integrating technology into the curriculum brings several advantages, such as heightened student engagement, improved knowledge retention, encouragement of individual learning, and better preparation for employment opportunities.

Every classroom is equipped with a set of Chromebooks along with a charging cart for teachers to facilitate student learning and to help them develop essential technology skills. Additionally, all classrooms feature Newline TVs that enable teachers to incorporate videos, images, and access various websites, making the curriculum more engaging and multisensory.

RAE also boasts a spacious skills enrichment lab for students to use for job applications, research, keyboarding practice, and accessing Northstar Digital Literacy modules, as well as their Google Classroom information and emails. Every student is enrolled in MobyMax to continue working on their educational goals outside the classroom, and many have access to other digital learning (DL) platforms depending on their courses. RAE instructors adopt a hybrid teaching approach, allowing students to utilize assigned online platforms to address any areas where they may need improvement.

Students at RAE have the option to take English as a Second Language (ESL), reading, writing, math, GED, and college courses online. To ensure success in online classes, students must possess strong technology skills. Therefore, RAE conducts a technology onboarding orientation session for every student who enrolls in an online course.

To support the program, RAE has one staff member dedicated to overseeing distance learning and technology integration. Their responsibilities include:

- Setting up student accounts
- Managing various DL and web-based platforms
- Researching new platforms
- Submitting platforms for contact hour approval
- Sharing DL information with staff and students
- Providing professional development to staff on DL topics
- Coaching individual staff on technology integration in their curriculum
- Monitoring DL hours in SID, and training clerical staff on correctly logging DL hours in SID

2023- 2024 Distance Learning Platform Hours:

DLPlatform	Total
IXL	5113
Moby Max	4337
ReadTheory	1182
Teacher Verified DL Lesson (TVM)	608
Northstar Digital Literacy	587
Townsend Press	336
New Readers Press Online Learning	8
Total	12170

The Rochester Public School District aids RAE by providing technological support. This includes the installation, maintenance, and repair of all technology used by RAE staff. Any technology-related inquiries can be addressed through a technology ticket submitted to the helpdesk for assistance. Moreover, the district regularly offers technology training and professional development opportunities for its staff.

All software and hardware used in RAE programming are listed in Document P.

6.2 Describe any resources, other than state and federal 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.

Financial resources supporting RAE include:

Rochester Public Schools – maintains Hawthorne Education Center (varies per year)
Rochester Public Schools provides professional development funds to RAE - (\$6,728)
Community Education – covers budget shortfalls (varies per year)
Workforce Development, Inc. – fiscal agent and partner for P2P grants, appropriation dollars and Otto Bremer Trust grant - (\$135,000)
Corrections – financial assistance for instructor salary - (\$15,000)

Community support services include:

Workforce Development Inc. (WDI): RAE and WDI collaborate to provide Bridges to Careers programming to the SE region. RAE provides office space at Hawthorne for the two WDI navigators to meet with students in the Bridges to Careers program. RAE refers students to WDI so they can co-enroll with them for more support and WDI refers their clients to RAE to enroll in any of the programs offered at Hawthorne Center.

Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC): RAE and RCTC collaborate to provide college experiences to students at Hawthorne Center. RCTC also is a major partner in the Bridges to Careers work. RAE provides office space at Hawthorne for the RCTC transition advisor. The transition advisor and RAE teacher co-facilitate the Transitions to College/D2L course and that same ABE teacher co-teaches the freshman English course with the RCTC English faculty.

Mayo Clinic – provides mock interviewers, guest speakers in classes, and tours of their facilities . They are also a major employer partner in the Bridges to Careers work.

Olmsted County – provides mock interviewers, guest speakers in classes, and tours of their facilities. They are also a major employer partner in the Bridges to Careers work.

Parents Are Important In Rochester (PAIIR) – RAE and PAIIR (the early childhood and family literacy program) collaborate to provide Family Literacy at Hawthorne Education Center.

Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association (IMAA): IMAA fosters the wellbeing and independence of refugees and immigrants who have resettled in Rochester and surrounding areas through its programs including victim services, employment, community health worker, interpretation and translation. RAE and IMAA share and support many of the same constituents. Referrals are made between the agencies to support refugees and immigrants in obtaining educational and employment goals.

Three Rivers Community Action Program: Three Rivers provides an employee to be on-site one morning and one afternoon a week to help students with housing, energy assistance, SNAP applications and other basic human needs services.

Community Health Services Inc. : A health insurance navigator comes to Hawthorne Education Center periodically to help students fill out the Health Insurance application and navigate other health issues.

Department of Public Safety(DPS): A DPS license integrity specialist comes to Hawthorne Education Center to provide Drivers License information to students and answer questions. They also provide printed MN Drivers Manuals for students to use to study for the permit and road test.

Channel One: The first and the third of every month, Channel One brings food to Hawthorne Education Center as part of their Mobile Market initiative. RAE staff and volunteers check in students so they can access the market.

Catholic Charities: The RAE program manager meets monthly with Catholic Charities and other community partners to get updated about how many families will be resettled in SE MN and how best to support these families. Catholic Charities staff make in-take appointments for all the refugee adults at Hawthorne Education Center to help them improve their English skills.

Unitarian Universalist Church: Hawthorne Helps is the name of the group of volunteers from this church who raise money and get donations for non-food items, such as, hygiene products, household products, school supplies, plants, and more. They have focused on non-food items because students who receive food stamps cannot purchase these types of items with their food stamps.

Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics, and Latin Americans (ACHLA): This is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering and advocating for the rights and well-being of Chicanos, Hispanics, and Latin Americans. This organization partners with RAE in a variety of ways: referrals, on-site events, consultation, etc.

City of Rochester: RAE collaborated with the City of Rochester on their Language Access Project. This project was about how to better support non-native speakers of English when they need to access different city government departments and services.

Rochester Healthy Community Partnership(RHCP): RAE meets monthly with this group to work on community based health issues. This group provided COVID vaccines to all RAE students. They advocate for RAE students in the community.

Vocational Rehabilitation – Students are referred for assistance regarding work possibilities.

Winona State University – Student nurses provide health education in classes on a variety of health-related topics.

University of Minnesota Rochester Center - Students work on different projects that will benefit the students at Hawthorne Education Center.

Rochester Public Library - The library provides reading champions to work one-on-one with students who are having difficulty improving their reading skills.

Public Health - Public Health provides a nurse to be on-site every Tuesday to help remove barriers for students and to go into classes to provide health education.