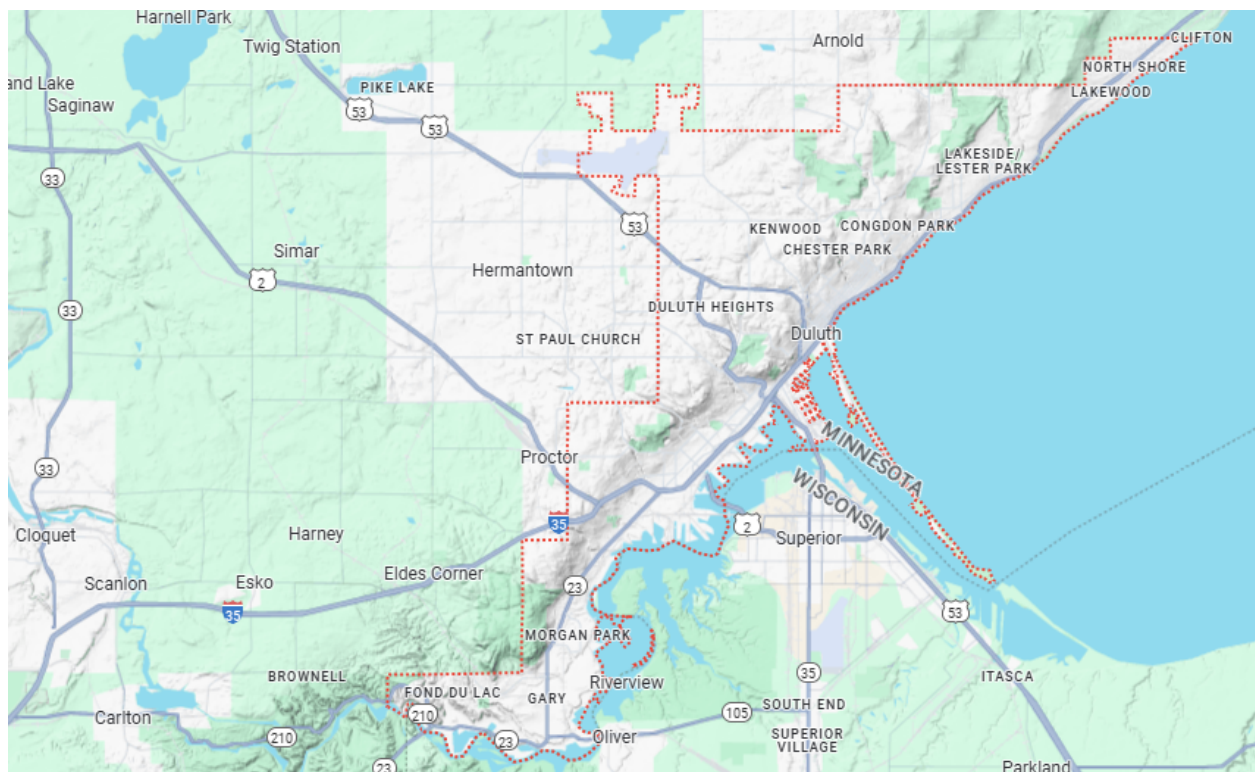


1.1 Provide an overview of the consortium. Include the following:

- **Geographic area of service including, as appropriate, Tribal Nations located partially or completely within that area**
- **Description of and data about the target population for ABE services who reside within the geographic area served by the consortium (such as individuals with low levels of literacy, adults without a secondary credential, and/or adult English language learners)**
- **Description of the ABE students typically served (including number, demographics and common goals)**
- **Current number and roles of staff, indicating which positions are full-time and part-time**
- **Brief overview of ABE programming sites across the consortium**

Overview of Consortium

The Duluth Adult Education program exists under the umbrella of Independent School District 709. The Duluth Adult Education consortium consists of the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, and Proctor and includes approximately 125 square miles of area and a population base of 119,221 (MN Dept of Education Entitlement Report).



Geographic Area

Duluth is a port city that is over 30 miles long and 5 miles wide with great variation in rural and urban landscape and economic diversity. Because of these realities, Duluth Adult Education is centrally located in the downtown business district and is directly accessible by bus from both extreme eastern and western ends of the city as well as from both Hermantown and Proctor.

Duluth Adult Education partners are also located in the downtown business district: Duluth CareerForce, SOAR Career Solutions, and the American Indian Community Housing Organization and collaborate with referrals and programming. Additional partners are located outside of the downtown area to increase accessibility; Community Action Duluth is located in the West area of Duluth and Lake Superior College is located in the Piedmont neighborhood area and are both on the bus line.

There are no designated tribal nations located in the Duluth Adult Education service area, however Fond du Lac nation is approximately 30 miles Southwest of Duluth and there are Duluth based organizations providing services for members of tribal nations:

- American Indian Community Housing Organization
- Center for American Indian Resources
- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Duluth Office
- Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe Duluth Office

Target Population

The mission of Duluth Adult Education is to empower learners to achieve their educational and career aspirations. Duluth Adult Education offers programs to serve adult learners who lack a high school diploma or equivalent, lack the academic or language skills to pursue education or employment, and/or are experiencing unemployment/underemployment and are not earning a sustainable wage for personal or family support.

The Duluth Adult Education Consortium serves a total local population of 119,221 (MN Dept of Education Entitlement Report). Within this area, the following populations exist and could be served by Duluth Adult Education:

- Adults without a diploma: 8,736 people (MN Dept of Education Entitlement Report).
- Children with limited English proficiency (LEP) as counted by the Duluth, Hermantown and Proctor school districts: 90. This assumes that there are adults connected to these youth that qualify as having limited English proficiency (MN Dept of Education Entitlement Report).

Additionally, of all the students administered NRS testing, 97% test at low literacy levels (below 8th grade) for the 2023-24 academic year (SID Report Level Gains, MSGs, and Post Test Rates).

During the 2023-24 academic year, the registration survey indicated that approximately 64% of Duluth Adult Education students have factors that challenge them to meet their educational or career goals. The chart below breaks these factors into more detail:

Barriers to Employment	# of Students	%
Disability	286	27.88%
Displaced Homemaker	23	2.24%
Ex-Offender	215	21.0%
Foster Care	45	4.39%
Homeless	304	29.63%
Learning Disability	178	17.35%
Low Income (On Public Assistance - or - Designated Low Income)	680	66.28%
Migrant Worker	18	1.8%
Single Parent	198	19.3%

Duluth Adult Education students have significant challenges to overcome to meet their educational or career goals and significant support is needed to assist students in overcoming these challenges.

ABE Student Description

Number of students

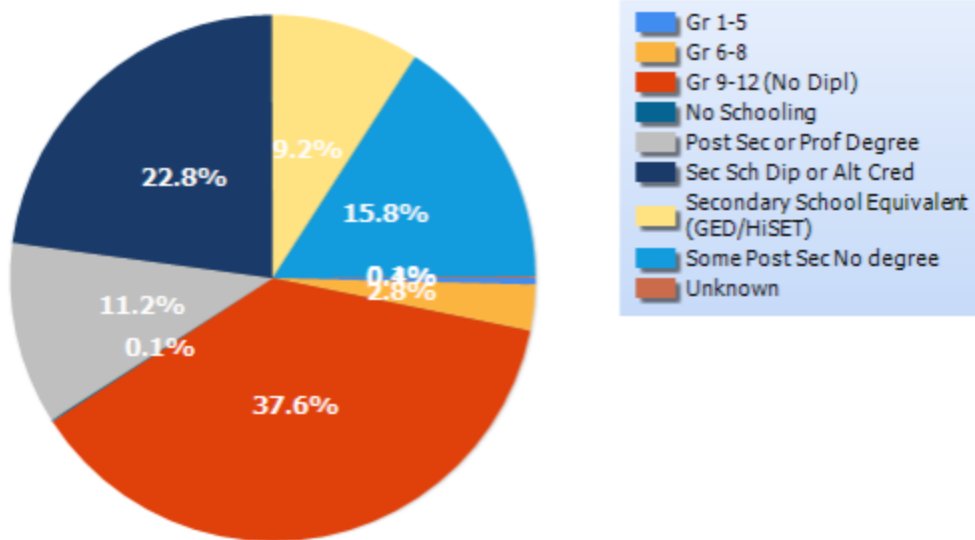
During the 2023-24 academic year, Duluth Adult Education served over 1,000 adult learners. Approximately half of those students resided in St. Louis County Jail and student numbers for other programs are as follows:

- GEDDiploma Program 174
- ELL/ESL Program 59
- Core Skills Program 44
- College Prep Program 72
- Career Program 36

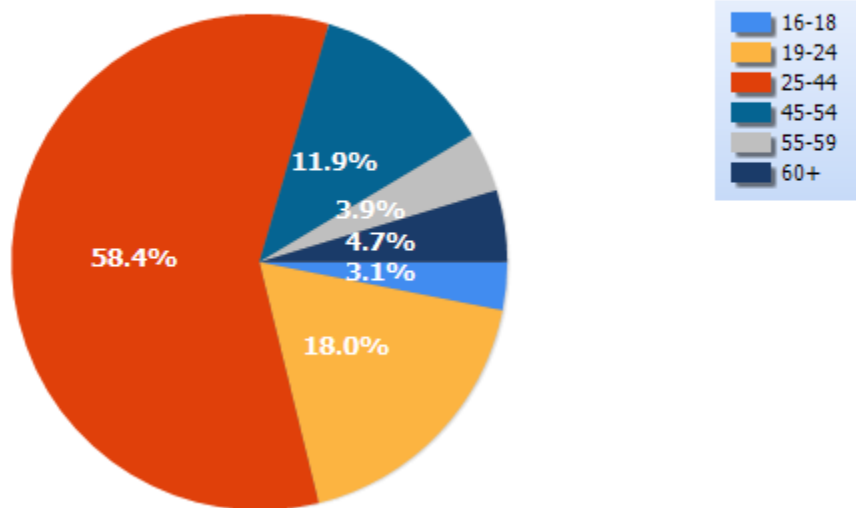
Demographics

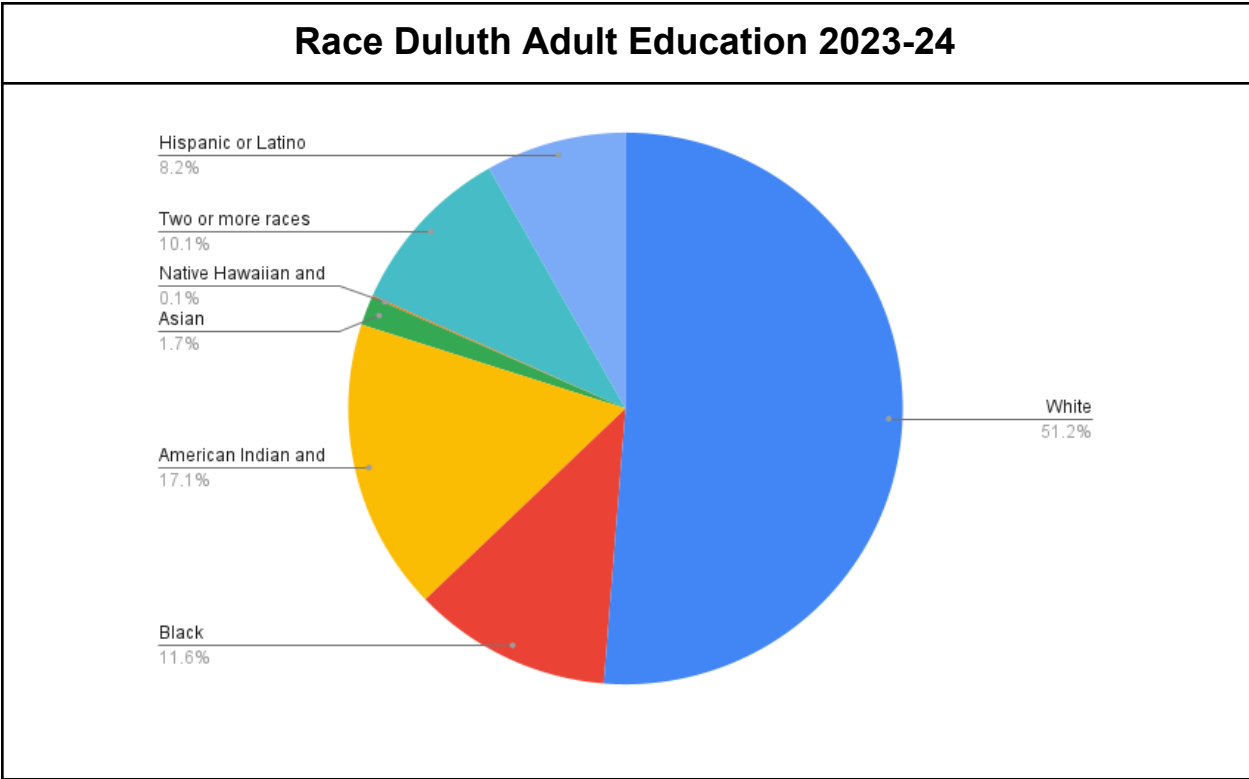
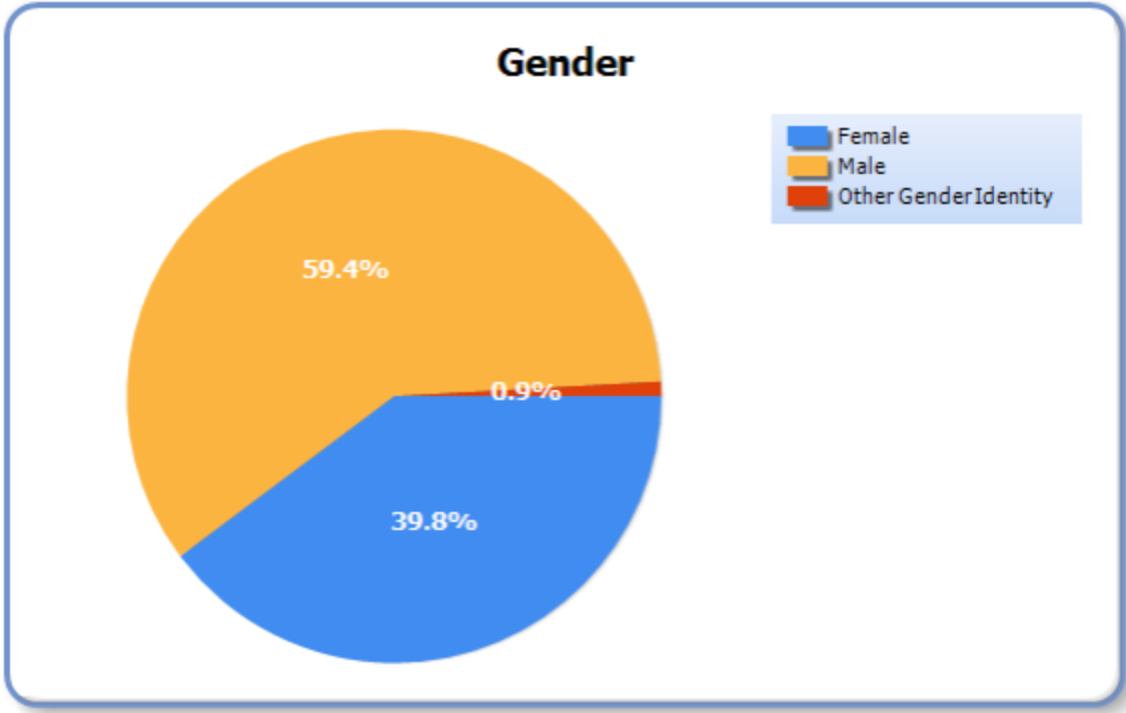
The demographics for Duluth Adult Education students are as follows:

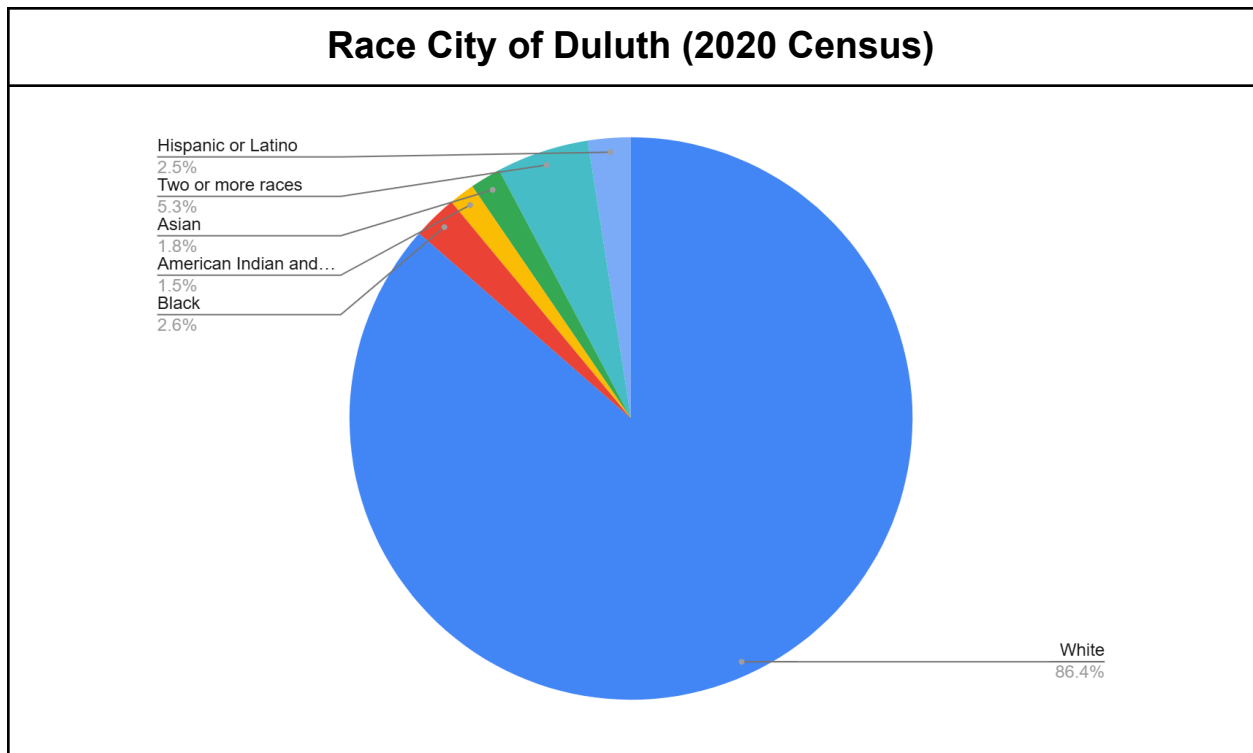
Education Level



Age Group







Duluth Adult Education serves a far more ethnically diverse student population than exists in relation to census data for the city of Duluth.

In addition within the city of Duluth:

- 5.7% of households earn less than \$10,000 per year
- 35.2% of households earn less than \$50,000 annually.

(Source:

<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5YSPT2021.DP03?q=DP03&g=310XX00US20260>)

It is because of these economic challenges that impact many within the Duluth consortium that Duluth Adult Education offers free transportation, free parking, free childcare, and technology library through partnerships and prioritization of support.

A significant number of Duluth Adult Education enrollees report being unemployed or not in the labor force. Below is the reported employment status of all enrolled Adult Education students during the 2023-24 academic year.

Work Status	# of Students	%
Employed	295	28.75%
Employed, To Be Terminated/Separated	28	2.73%
Not in Labor Force	160	15.59%
Unemployed	543	52.92%
Total	1026	

Clearly the employment status (a total of nearly 70% of enrolled students report not having employment) in relation to the percentage of Adult Ed students who fall within primary wage earning, family-supporting age groups is evidence that there is continued need of educational services addressing high school credentialing as well as a continued need and future expansion in Career Pathway Education and Training opportunities.

Certainly the volume of this data depicts the Duluth Adult Education target population/s: unemployed, underemployed, those lacking a high school diploma or equivalent, those seeking preparation for post-secondary education or training, English Language Learners, etc. Duluth Adult Education plays a critical role in assisting each student's attainment of their own determined educational goals in improving their life.

Common goals

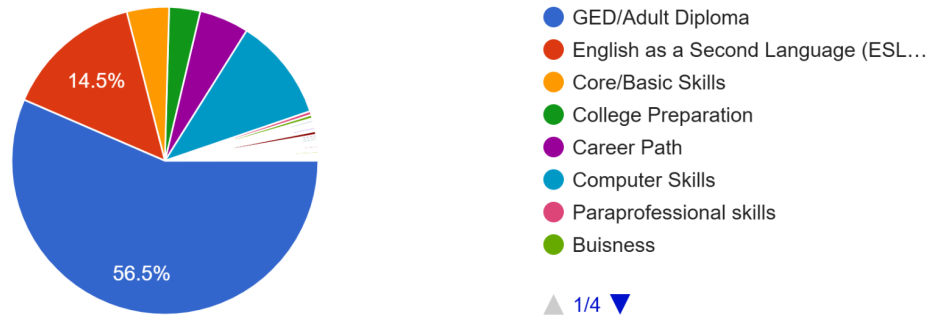
When students complete their registration, they tell us three words to describe how they hope to feel at Duluth Adult Education. The word cloud image below shows common themes represented in larger font based on a larger number of responses.



From the 2023-24 academic year, adult learners indicated on the first part of their registration which program they were interested in. It can be assumed that these program preferences relate directly to the goal each learner hoped to achieve. The chart below is a good representation of what people in the community are seeking.

Which program are you interested in?

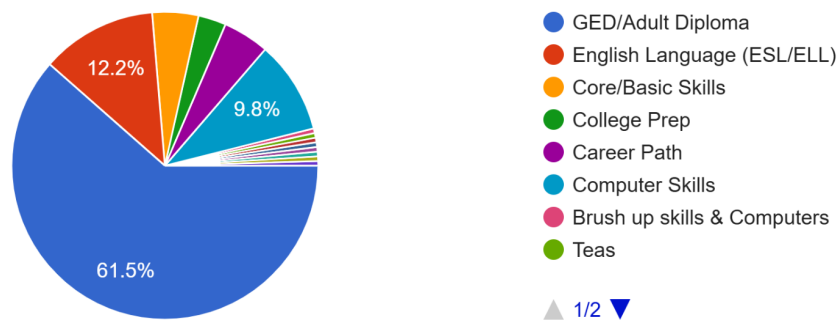
517 responses



The next chart below comes from the students who completed their registration and enrolled and is a good representation of what adult learners enrolled at Duluth Adult Education hope to achieve:

8. Which program are you registering for?

205 responses



Staffing

The staff of Duluth Adult Education include:

- One Manager
- One Management Information Systems Assistant
- One Clerical
- Twelve teachers

See Staffing Table below:

Last name	Position Title	Education & Licensure	Experience in ABE	Training
Bishop	1.0 FTE Teacher	Masters in Education K-12 License Adult Education	Over Ten Years	ACES, TABE, Distance Learning, MNI, CCRS, ACP, CASAS
Burns	< .35 FTE Teacher	PhD Ecology Masters Ecology BS Biology K-12 License	Over One Year	ABE Foundations, Northstar Proctor CASAS
Castellano	< .35 FTE Teacher	BS English/Phy Ed K-12 License Humane Education Specialist	Over Four Years	ABE Foundations, Northstar Proctor, CASAS, Master Teacher Proctor
Fait	< .35 FTE Teacher	-PhD Public Health -Masters of Education -Masters of Healthcare Administration -Bachelors of Art -K-12 License	Over Four Years	Northstar Proctor, CASAS
Frank	.75 FTE Administrator	Masters in Education K-12 License	Over Fifteen Years	ACES, CASAS, CCRS, Northstar Foundations, Northstar Proctor
Greniger	1.0 FTE Teacher	Bachelors in Education, K-12 License, Adult Education	Over Fifteen Years	ACES, CCRS, CASAS, MNI, STAR, TABE, CCRS, EBRI, ACP, Distance Learning/Northstar Proctor
Jenkins	< .35 FTE Teacher	Masters in Communication K-12 License	Over One Year	

Johnson	< .35 FTE Teacher	Masters in Public Health Biostatistics K-12 License	Under One Year	ABE Foundations
Kane	< .35 FTE Teacher	PhD Adult Reading K-12 License	Over Three Years	ABE Foundations, Distance Learning
Meisinger	.75 FTE Management Information Systems Assistant Paraprofessional	Bachelors of Science in Art Education	Over Four Years	CASAS, ACES, Distance Learning
Murphy	.60 FTE Teacher	Masters in Education K-12 License, Adult Education	Over Four Years	CASAS, Northstar Proctor, ABE Foundations,
Temple-Rhodes	.75 FTE Teacher	Masters in Library Science, K-12 License	Over Six Years	ACES, CASAS, Northstar Proctor, Distance Learning
Toland	.4 FTE Clerical Support		Over Twelve Years	CASAS
Turner	.55 FTE Teacher	Bachelors in Languages K-12 License, Adult Education	Over Ten Years	ACES, CCRS, Distance and Blended Learning, Northstar Proctor
Westin	.35 FTE Teacher	Postsecondary Degree, K-12 License	Over Five Years	CCRS

Programming Sites

Adult Education offers the following variety of services and classes in multiple sites around the area with numerous partner organizations:



Duluth Adult Education

325 E. 1st St Ste 310 Duluth, MN 55802

- Registration
- GED/Diploma Program
- Core Skills Program
- English Language Program
- Career Path Program



Lake Superior College

2101 Trinity Road Duluth, MN 55811

- Registration
- College Prep Program
- Career Path Program
- Ability to Benefit
- Developmental Education Integration and Support



Duluth Careerforce Center

402 W 1st St Duluth, MN 55802

- Referrals
- Pathways to Prosperity Partner
- Career Path Program
- Grade Level Assessment for partners



Soar Career Solutions

205 W 2nd Street Suite 101 Duluth, MN 55802

- Referrals
- Pathways to Prosperity Partner
- Career Path Program
- Grade Level Assessment for partners



American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO)

202 W. 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55802

- Registration
- GED/Diploma Program



Community Action Duluth

2424 W 5th St Suite 102 Duluth, MN 55806

- Registration
- GED/Diploma Program
- Career Path Program



Lifehouse

102 W. 1st St, Duluth, MN 55802

- Registration
- GED/Diploma Program



Saint Louis County Jail

4334 Haines Road Duluth, MN 55811

- Referrals
- Core Skills Program