

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.

Use of Technology to Improve Student Access, Enhance Instruction, and Improve Outcomes

Lakes Area Adult Education (LAAE) utilizes technology strategically to improve student access to programming, enhance instructional quality, and achieve better outcomes for adult learners. This technology integration supports in-person, hybrid, and distance learning models, tailored to meet the diverse needs of our student population.

Improving Student Access

LAAE provides students with access to essential technology, including Chromebooks and hotspots available through a lending library. This ensures that students who lack personal devices or internet access can participate in hybrid and distance learning programs.

As a Mobile GED Testing Center, LAAE brings testing opportunities directly to rural and remote areas, addressing access barriers for learners pursuing high school equivalency credentials.



Enhancing Instructional Quality

LAAE equips all instructors with laptops and other tools such as projectors and smartboards in many classrooms, ensuring that in-person instruction is dynamic and engaging. Teachers integrate technology into their lessons to deliver content in a way that supports diverse learning styles.

The consortium encourages a hybrid learning model, blending in-person instruction with asynchronous learning platforms such as Khan Academy and ReadWorks.

These platforms allow students to practice skills at their own pace, complementing the structured, instructor-led classroom environment.

Although synchronous online instruction is not directly offered due to low participation, LAAE students can access Regional Online Career Collaborative (ROCC) courses, providing career-focused online learning opportunities that align with regional workforce demands.

Supporting Improved Student Outcomes

By integrating technology into instructional practices and offering hybrid learning options, LAAE helps students progress more quickly and effectively. The flexibility of hybrid models enables learners to balance educational pursuits with personal and professional responsibilities.

Regular assessments and access to asynchronous tools ensure students receive targeted, individualized instruction, allowing them to focus on areas of greatest need. The availability of Chromebooks, hotspots, and mobile GED testing directly addresses barriers to success, leading to higher levels of engagement and completion.

Commitment to Equity and Growth

LAAE continues to address technology gaps by maintaining and upgrading resources and infrastructure. This commitment ensures that all learners, regardless of their location or circumstances, can access high-quality education that prepares them for academic and career success.



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.)

Lakes Area Adult Education (LAAE) leverages multiple resources beyond state and federal ABE funding to enhance programming and provide comprehensive support for learners. These resources include financial grants, charitable contributions, and coordination with community partners to address barriers to education.

Financial Resources

DLACF Grant:

This grant funded essential office equipment, including teacher desks, administrative desks, and other office supplies, creating a more functional and professional environment to support ABE programming.

West Central Initiative Grant:

Funding from this grant allowed LAAE to purchase new civics and U.S. citizenship materials, expanding opportunities for adult learners to prepare for citizenship and engage in civic education.

DLPEF Grant:

This grant supports our subscription to Ellii.com, an online ESL library providing access to lessons and materials for both in-person and online learning. This resource enables instructors to offer diverse, high-quality ESL programming that meets the needs of various learners.

United Way Grant:

The United Way grant addresses critical barriers to education by funding transportation and GED testing costs. This ensures that financial or logistical challenges do not prevent learners from pursuing their educational goals.

Community Coordination and Support Services

In addition to financial grants, LAAE collaborates with community partners to provide wraparound support services:

- **Transportation Assistance:** Through partnerships, LAAE helps students access reliable transportation to attend classes, ensuring consistent participation.
- **GED Testing Support:** Coordination with community organizations helps offset the costs of GED tests for learners facing financial hardship.
- **Workforce and CEP Collaboration**
- LAAE collaborates with CareerForce and CEP (Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program) to provide coordinated support for learners. These partners refer students to ABE programming and, in turn, LAAE refers learners to CEP and CareerForce for employment and training services. CEP also supports learners by providing access to computers and offering attendance-based incentives to encourage participation in both education and workforce development activities. This coordination strengthens both academic and employment outcomes for adult learners.

Impact of Resources

These additional resources improve instructional quality, increase access, and reduce barriers to participation. With support from grants and local partners, LAAE strengthens both educational outcomes and long-term opportunities for learners.