



Section Six: Program Partnerships & Collaboration

6.1 Explain the extent and nature of staff program collaboration with other applicable organizations, such as the local K-12 system, Workforce Centers, Workforce Investment Board (WIB), MFIP employment counselors, post-secondary education/training institutions, Local businesses, labor associations/organizations, industry and employment-training agencies or family education providers. This should include participation of staff on Literacy Action Network committees, local boards or councils and other statewide committees.

Local K-12 system

AAP works closely with Robbinsdale Area Schools (District 281) K-12 system in a number of ways: staff attends most elementary and middle school events geared towards parents and hosts a booth to provide literature and answer questions regarding services we can offer. By sharing our services with K-12 parents, we hope to encourage them to attend our program, if appropriate, and increase their academic and parenting skills, which will result in them assisting their children with their education. We also provide information to parents about our resources through announcement in school bulletins, inclusion in packets sent home to parents, inclusion in weekend meal backpacks for kids, and, in the future, “automated phone calls.” At one of the elementary schools, we are in negotiations to offer to set up parents in our distance learning system.

AAP’s Program Director is on a school board committee which organizes and hosts events in area apartment complexes in order to help residents feel a greater connection to the school district and have any questions answered. Her participation in the committee and booths she staffs at these events increase AAP’s visibility with adults in the district as well as with district staff.

The Program Director has presented at the Interschool Parents Council and on multiple occasions for the Robbinsdale School Board. The latest visit to the school board, in February 2014, included two teachers, an education assistant and 25 learners (two of whom shared their stories).

AAP works closely with the alternative schools in the district. We take referrals for learners who want to attend our ALC or switch to GED. We also host the Hazelden Center for Youth Residential Treatment Program and offer counselor and administrative services to them as well as share our GED/ALC instructors for youth completion of high school diploma credits. District ALC learners are invited to participate in some FastTRAC programming, when appropriate.

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WorkForce Centers

We meet periodically with Workforce Center staff to acquaint them with our services. For the past two years, we have offered computer classes on site at the Workforce Center. Our Program Director has hosted a booth at job fairs held by the WorkForce Center. For many years, our program sent staff to regular meetings of Best in West, which was a Workforce sponsored organization that brought together area business people and educators. This organization has a new name, and the Regional Transition Coordinator (RTC) now represents us at its meetings.

WorkForce Investment Board (WIB)

We are represented on the WIB by Tamra Sieve, the Program Director of Metro South ABE. See Document Q which lists the WIB members.

MFIP employment counselors

We research contact information for various employment counselors and send them information on our program as appropriate. If requested, we will mail out signed forms documenting learner attendance.

Post-secondary education/training institutions

We do not have a post-secondary institution within our jurisdiction, but there is one technical college and one community college near us in the Osseo school district jurisdiction. We work cooperatively with Osseo ABE to collaborate with these colleges.

Hennepin Technical College (HTC): We currently have two FastTRAC grants with HTC – one which is in its fourth year: Pathways to Healthcare Careers and one which is in its first year: Math for Manufacturing and J-Standard Soldering. AAP, along with HTC and its other partners, received the MNSCU award for “Innovative Partnerships” in 2012 for the Healthcare Pathway FastTRAC grant work.

AAP offers two classes on site at HTC (previously three and with plans for two more new ones next year) and a distance learning program we offer in a computer lab there. These College Prep classes serve learners at HTC who do not qualify for the college’s lowest developmental education courses and who are unlikely to come to an ABE site (some fall into both categories), as well as AAP learners who want to experience college. We also tried doing a distance learning lab and basic skills independent study in the Learning Resource Center there but have been unable to obtain a sufficient number of learners to make it viable.

North Hennepin Community College (NHCC): We had a FastTRAC grant on Business – Critical Technology Skills with them two years ago. We were not funded for future years. The partnership tried to continue after losing the FastTRAC funding but was unable to recruit enough learners to make the class viable. In addition, we frequently work with NHCC’s Customized Training department to do workforce training with area employers.

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Local businesses

For many years, we have done workforce training for a number of area businesses. Skills taught include: Workplace English, Pre-Lean Manufacturing, Pre-Six Sigma, Cultural Issues for Supervisors, Math, etc. We have also worked with local businesses to set up cross-promotional efforts.

Labor associations/organizations

We work with labor organizations on issues related to staff contracts.

Industry and employment-training agencies

We work closely with HIRED. Our primary involvement with HIRED has been through our two FastTRAC grants – one of which has been going for four years. HIRED provides the navigator and is fiscal agent on these grants. We work closely with HIRED and our four other ABE partners and Hennepin Technical College on the planning and implementation of these grants. HIRED sends a navigator to our bridge classes to inform students of the opportunities available once they complete the bridge class and to encourage their continued participation. We have done math preparation for the M-Powered program HIRED does in cooperation with HTC. HIRED has come to our program on multiple occasions to do job search seminars as part of our EL Civics grant. We also worked with Employment Action Center (EAC) as part of a FastTRAC grant.

Family education providers

Our program works closely with ECFE in our district to plan, organize and implement our Family Literacy Program. ECFE hires the parent educator and children's teachers and some paraprofessionals, while AAP is responsible for the facilities, some paraprofessionals and instructors for the parents' ABE classes. We work cooperatively on funding and scheduling. ECFE also helped organize our evening childcare (no longer held due to funding issues) and provided the staff and materials.

Participation of staff on statewide committees:

Literacy Action Network committees: AAP's Director is on the marketing sub-committee of the Summer Institute Committee and is on the LAN Marketing Committee.

Other statewide committees: Instructor Kristine Kelly is on the statewide STAR Leadership Team and the Minnesota Adult Diploma Task Force. Instructor Andy Albee is on the statewide MNI committee. Counselor Dan Woodbury was on the initial ACES organizational committee.

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6.2 Describe the resources, other than state and federal aid, that you use to supplement ABE programming. This should include coordination with external partners to provide support services to meet learners' needs, such as transportation, convenient class locations and childcare.

As mentioned above, we work with ECFE to provide Family Literacy and childcare. We have worked with PRISM to get food and clothing resources for our learners and with NEAR for food resources. New Hope Woman gives us an annual donation of used coats for adults and children. Zumiez Clothing Company gives us an annual donation of new coats, jackets, hats, mittens, socks and other clothing.

Regarding transportation, we worked with the City of Golden Valley, State Senator Ann Rest and closely with Metro Transit to get improved bus schedules and routes to better serve learners in our new location.

We regularly work with outside organizations to bring a number of speakers to address a variety of useful topics for our learners. This year we brought in the following:

1. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Revenue to give tax information/help.
2. Local MnSure Navigators to give a presentation on how to enroll for a healthcare plan and to help over 40 of our learners/family members enroll.
3. Free Accuplacer testing at our school from both North Hennepin Community College and Hennepin Technical College. We also had speakers from both visit our learners and held tours at both colleges.
4. At our annual "City Day" event, representatives from the five biggest cities in our school district came to share the resources they have to offer our learners who live in their respective cities. Services and activities such as police, fire, summer programs and local events are discussed. This year the New Hope mayor came to present at the start of the event to the full school on how local government functions.
5. We recently had performances from our local Story Theater group, a presentation from a representative of the Raptor Center and Reptile center (with birds and snakes!), speakers from the League of Women Voters to discuss elections, as well as a visit from the Mayor of New Hope to speak to classes about local government. The Mayor of Golden Valley and state representative and several city council members came to our school's grand opening event after we moved to Sandburg Learning Center.

6.3 How do you collaborate with local and county correctional facilities?

There are no local or county correctional facilities within our area of jurisdiction.

6.4 Describe your consortium's role in developing and implementing your regional Next STEP plan:

The Program Director sits on the West Hennepin Area ABE Managers group, which is the recipient of the funds. She participates in the discussion of what plans can and should be implemented under plan guidelines and works jointly with the other members and the RTC to see them implemented. AAP's Program Director is one of the two supervisors of the RTC's work, and she consults and collaborates with the RTC on how she can best support the plans of the group.