

Community Education is Here For You



Life is full of changing needs—sometimes they follow a clear path, and sometimes they don't. But when life offers the chance to grow a skill, when all that's needed is a little extra training, or when you're new to the area and seeking connection, **we're here for you.** Community Education is dedicated to fostering opportunities that make an **impact, build partnerships, and create a sense of belonging**—connecting every member of our community to the vibrant heart of life.

2025 MCEA Legislative Priorities

- 1** **Appropriately fund Early Childhood Preschool Programming** to meet the diverse needs of Minnesota families and the delivery costs of a district's defined model.
 - **Increase School Readiness funding** to accommodate the increased costs of offering school readiness programming due to the 2028 Teacher License requirement.
 - Enable districts to use Voluntary Prekindergarten Funds (VPK) to support the service models tailored to their community's unique needs.

- 2** **Expand the School Age Care Levy**, which supports students with disabilities or who are experiencing temporary family or related problems, to **include three and four-year-old students** enrolled in the district. This change would provide needed funding to cover the additional costs of serving these children

- 3** **Increase the Youth After-School Enrichment Levy** to accommodate the increased costs of programming that have been rising since the funding was established in 2003.

- 4** **Establish an ongoing funding stream for unemployment insurance and the impact on Community Education programs.**

Community Education is...

a statewide initiative reaching every community in Minnesota through local schools and school districts. For more than 50 years, local community education programs have partnered with communities across the state to address local community needs. We create impactful programming for ALL participants to feel a sense of belonging in their community. We ensure access to quality opportunities and resources that are inclusive of the needs of ALL residents in order to eliminate opportunity gaps, positively impact communities, and encourage them to grow as individuals. **Additional investments are needed to continue to serve learners of all ages.**

Through impact, partnership and belonging, Community Education tells the stories of lifelong learning and connection throughout Minnesota.



IMPACT

Jump starting children's educational journey.

For many children, preschool is the first time they have a chance to interact with other adults and children outside of their families. Anoka-Hennepin Schools provides preschool programming at Riverview Early Childhood Center in Brooklyn Park, whose mission is to build a foundation for success and provide the students with the skills they need to begin kindergarten. The preschool's high-quality early education is making a huge difference for our youngest learners.



PARTNERSHIP

Bridging the educational gap.

Shakopee Community Education has partnered with Mi CASA, which works to bridge educational gaps facing the local Latino population. This unique summer program is available to children and their families at little or no cost, providing arts, STEM and physical education programming as well as amazing connections among participants.



BELONGING

Offering support to reach one's full potential.

Breanna left high school in 10th grade and began working full-time. At 21, she joined Brainerd Adult Basic Education (ABE) to pursue her GED. While balancing work and living independently, she completed 105 hours of study in just three months and earned her GED. Bree then became an ABE volunteer and now serves as the part-time intake and assessment assistant, exemplifying the transformative impact of our programs through her dedication and resilience.



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