



Adult Education Update

To: Members of the Lowell School Committee

From: Jeannine M. Durkin, Superintendent

Date: May 16, 2019

The following report is provided by the Director of Adult Education Elizabeth McKiernan in response to discussion about Adult Education during the May 6, 2019 Budget Hearing.

Dear School Committee Members,

*The school department/city adult education budget for FY2020 was listed as **\$648,193**. That number includes the one (1) director @ **\$106,055**; five (5) full time teachers @ a total teacher cost of **\$394,828** and three (3) support staff at a total cost of **\$147,311**. The school department/city allocation should only include the director and teachers for a total appropriation of **\$500,883**.*

*At the state/federal level, we compete for adult education **matching** funds from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We have been extremely successful throughout the forty years of our full time existence. This year because of our **matching** funds (**\$500,883**), we will be receiving a minimum of **\$1,098,545** from state/federal adult education funding. Without the match, we would not get any adult education funding. All adult education full time support staff including the **\$147,311** amount listed in the FY2020 school department budget, fifty part time teachers, supplies, technology and other expenses are paid for by our grants.*

We educate 1,800 adults yearly in basic education. Most of our students are learning and/or improving their English and others are working towards earning their high school credential. We are the largest program of adult basic education in Massachusetts, and we receive the largest annual appropriation of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

*Corrections have been made to the line item for adult education to reflect the true cost of \$500,883 (\$106,055 & \$394,828). By appropriating this amount, we will bring in another \$1,098,545 in **matching** funds. It is important that members of the school committee understand that we are working hard to earn **matching** grants of more than twice the amount the city has committed to educating our adult population in Lowell.*

Thank you,

Betty McKiernan

*Elizabeth McKiernan, Director
Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center*