



Adult Education Update

To: Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D Superintendent
From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer
Date: January 15, 2021
Re: Response to Motion

The following report is in response to the motion by Mayor John Leahy:

Adult Education

by Mayor John Leahy: [Request the Superintendent update the Committee on the Adult Education academic program as well as their physical plant.

The information below has been provided by Elizabeth McKiernan, Director of the Adult Education Center.

In March 2020, the Program transitioned to remote learning. During the spring, we responded to the many needs of our students. We assisted our students with information on school closure and facts about Covid-19. During this timeframe we continued our program-wide campaign to educate and encourage students to respond to the 2020 Census. We provided support for students' educational needs, as well as their concerns about food insecurity, navigating the unemployment system, housing and physical and mental health issues. Educational and support contacts totaled 2,965 emails, phone calls, and texts between March and June.

We implemented an expanded remote summer school program to maintain educational continuity and used that as a pilot to inform our fall programming.

DESE/ Adult and Community Learning Services allowed each program to decide on in-person or remote learning for this school year. After surveying students, and in consideration of our adult population, we determined that remote learning was the best choice for this school year. We provided numerous opportunities for staff training to better prepare for a fully remote program and began registration in early September. Students were also offered remote assistance with technology needs.

We are continuing with remote learning and currently serve approximately 800 adult learners, and by the end of the year we will have served hundreds more. Students have responded quite well, and many have expressed the desire to continue remotely in the next school year.

We have had some recent repairs/upgrades to the heating and ventilation systems. We've also received some COVID safety products but have not yet been provided with air filters or new thermostats. As an older building, renovated student bathrooms, new windows and paint would make a significant impact on the learning environment. Some adult education funds may be available to support some of these repairs and renovations