

# MINNESOTA COMMUNITY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

A statewide system through your local school's  
Community Education department.



Reaching over 3 million Minnesotans  
for over 45 years from our youngest  
learners to our oldest adults.

Working together  
for **COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION.**



## ABOUT MCEA:

The Minnesota Community Education Association helps school districts and communities reach locally identified goals by:

- Providing high quality school-based early learning.
- Serving as a state-wide delivery system for the youngest to the oldest Minnesotans.
- Creating partnerships between schools, cities, businesses and community organizations.
- Promoting an educated workforce which is key to Minnesota's prosperity.
- Helping to provide connections and programs for baby boomers and beyond.

For more information contact **651.257.0752.**

MCEA provides the **leadership,**  
**resources** and **support** services needed  
to develop and sustain **leading-edge**  
Community Education programs  
and services.

*Minnesota continues to be a  
national leader in Community Education.*

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### Strengthening schools, Strengthening communities.

Community Education programs are vital to Minnesota's future. This statewide, school-based network connects local people and resources to improve schools and communities. Community Education provides quality programs to learners of all ages and abilities: infants and preschoolers, school-aged children, adults and seniors. Community Education has a long-practiced philosophy of citizen and community engagement and collaborative partnerships, key components in connecting the schools and the community.



## OUR PRIORITIES:

### ● Close the opportunity gap with our earliest learners

Research shows a strong foundation for every learner begins with parent/family education to assist and empower parents in their role as the child's primary teacher. School districts, through Community Education, have a long history of providing high quality early learning programs including Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Pre-K/School Readiness, Early Childhood Screening, and Home Visiting. Programs are designed to eliminate barriers, align Pre-K-grade 3 curriculum and instruction, and use assessments.

- School districts require flexibility to implement high quality programs for three-and four-year-old children to best meet family and community needs.
- Full program funding is needed, including funding for appropriate staffing, transportation and facilities.
- Ensure that Minnesotans have access to quality parent education through school-based (ECFE) programs.

### ● Expand learning opportunities beyond the school day/school year

Community Education provides after school and summer programs for youth to learn, explore strengths, serve their communities, and develop leadership skills. Youth participating in programs beyond the school day demonstrate greater engagement in learning during their school hours.

- Ensure that all K-12 learners, especially underserved youth, have access to quality out-of-school programs.

### ● Improve Minnesota's workforce

For Minnesota's economy to grow, businesses need employees with strong skills. Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs help adults acquire and improve skills to become fully employed and self-sufficient.

- Ensure Minnesota adults have access to ABE programs throughout the state to improve pathways to post-secondary careers.
- Support current ABE funding formula.

### ● Community engagement

With unique community needs, including an aging population and increased diversity, schools remain a key resource among all communities in Minnesota. Community Education plays a vital role in connecting schools and communities to achieve innovative local solutions.

- Critical support systems are underfunded and require a long overdue investment.