



# Centennial ACE

(Adult Continuing Education)  
*"To dream is the first step in making your dreams come true"*

## SITE PROFILE

### LOCATION

Centennial Area Learning Center (CALC)  
4203 Woodland Road, Circle Pines – use Village Parkway entrance  
Mailing address: Centennial ACE  
4707 North Road  
Circle Pines, MN 55014  
E-mail: [cenACE@isd12.org](mailto:cenACE@isd12.org) Phone: 763-398-2980  
Fax: 763-717-4538



### PERSONNEL

- One part-time, 7-12, licensed teacher (25 hours per week)
- One part-time educational assistant (15 hours per week)
- Two volunteers

### STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Students aged 16 and older, not enrolled in secondary school, and functioning below the 12th grade level in any of the basic academic areas including reading, math, and writing. Students need not live in the Centennial School District.

### ENROLLMENT

Average daily attendance 7 – 14 students  
2010 – 11 Attendance hours: 3,994 (up 21% from previous year)  
2009 – 10 Attendance hours: 3,297

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Adult Basic Education (ABE) options at Centennial ACE include the following:

- GED: General Educational Development Diploma. This is a high school diploma equivalency issued by the State of Minnesota. It is earned by a student who passes all five parts of the GED test. It requires no high school credits.
- ABE: Instruction on specific skills in math, reading, writing. This includes studying for the Accuplacer, a widely used college and technical school placement test.
- College Prep: Independent study through Mindquest Academy (MQA), an online offering of 24 courses designed to expose students to sample college courses, improve academic skills and increase understanding of the culture of college.

### STUDENT SUCCESSES

- 68 students attended 3,994 hours.
- 24 students earned a GED last year.
- Two students worked on MQA.
- Two students prepared for Accuplacer, the community and technical college placement test.

### SITE SUCCESSES

- In 2010, Centennial ACE had an 88 percent student retention rate, which is higher than the average for the Metro North ABE Consortium, which is 53 percent.

## TECHNOLOGY

- 1 staff computer with internet access
- 6 student computers, 2 with internet access
- 1 overhead projector
- 1 copy machine

### Resources

Computer Programs: Steck-Vaughn GED practice exercises and tests, Contemporary's GED practice exercises, Skills Bank writing and grammar exercises, Grammar and Essay Punch.

## GOVERNANCE

Centennial ACE, a Centennial Community Services program, is part of the Metro North Consortium comprised of 14 ABE sites in nine school districts. The consortium is one of 53 ABE consortia in Minnesota operating about 500 sites. Funding is provided via state and federal dollars that flow through the consortium. Services are offered to eligible students at no cost.

## LITERACY FACTS IN MINNESOTA

- 78,480 students attended ABE classes in Minnesota in 2010 (up 6.9% from '09) *Speech by Barry Shaffer, State Director of Adult Basic Education, August 19, 2010*
- 5,827,860 attendance hours in ABE classes in Minnesota in 2010 (up 8.5% from '09) *Council for Adult and Experiential Learning*
- 15% studied to earn a GED or high school diploma *Barry Shaffer speech, Aug. '10*
- 1 out of 11 diplomas issued in Minnesota is a GED or adult high school diploma
- The average annual per pupil cost for ABE is \$647 or \$8.71 per hour *MN Dept. of Education*
- More than 40% of the U.S. workforce and more than 50% of high school graduates do not have the basic skills to do their jobs, this includes 16% of college grads
- The limited literacy skills of employees cost business and taxpayers \$20 billion annually in lost wages, profits and productivity
- GED graduates were expected to earn over \$91 million more in taxable income in 2004 than if they remained without a diploma
- A study of mothers receiving welfare found that each additional year of schooling led to an approximated 7% wage increase
- Those who pass the GED have outperformed 40% of traditional high school graduating seniors *The American Council on Education*
- 97% of colleges and universities accept the GED as equivalent to the high school diploma, including the University of Minnesota *College Board 2001*
- Those who earn their GED perform as well in postsecondary education as traditional high school graduates *Purdue University 1999*
- More than 90% of U. S. employers consider GED grads the same as those of traditional high schools with regard to hiring, salary and advancement *Society for Human Resource Management 2002*

*\*\*Unless otherwise noted, the source of facts is from The ABE Impact Report 2004*

**"The more education a person has the less likely he/she will be unemployed and the higher the average income." American Council on Education 2008, 2009**

	Unemployment rate	Average income	* The difference in average income between an employee with a graduate degree and a high school drop-out is \$56,924.
Graduate degree	2.5%	\$79,144	
Bachelor's Degree	4.2%	\$50,856	
Associate's Degree	6.4%	\$43,455	
High school graduate	9.6%	\$30,732	
High school dropout	15.1%	\$22,220	