OVERVIEW OF LAN ADULT DIPLOMA RESEARCH AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

ADULT DIPLOMA TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

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LITERACY ACTION NETWORK – STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY GROUP FOR ABE

- "Preparing Adults for Minnesota's future"
- Focus on professional development, public policy, statewide collaboration, etc.
- Receives Supplemental Services funding to provide a variety of services enhancing ABE capacity statewide

INITIAL ADULT DIPLOMA TASK FORCE

- Created 2012 by LAN at request of MDE as part of Supplemental Services grant
- Purpose: Explore potential for creating a statewide adult diploma as an alternative to the GED
- Impetus: The need to provide meaningful adult secondary credential in a consistent manner statewide

STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL PARTS OF MINNESOTA

- Co-Chairs Tim O'Brien and Kristine Wehrkamp
- Legislative Liaison Tom Cytron-Hysom
- Members Beverlee Mountain, Sarah Larson, Marty Olsen, and Julie Nigon
- MDE Representative Brad Hasskamp

WORKED WITH SHERIDANSTOWE, CONSULTANTS

- Produced June 2012 report
 - Researched needs and trends regarding core standards/secondary credentials in Minnesota and nationwide
 - Documented possible options
 - Explored how an Adult Diploma might work in Minnesota
- Report adopted by LAN Board

FOCUS GROUPS HELD STATEWIDE TO OBTAIN INPUT TO REPORT

- Three separate focus group sessions
- Two broad community sessions, one each in St. Paul and Rochester
- Student focus group in St. Paul

SOME MAJOR FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

- Concern that the Diploma be consistent statewide, portable, mobile, etc.
- Should assess 21st century skills needed by employers
- Will the new Adult Diploma provide real, relevant and rigorous evaluation of student achievement?
- Will the new Adult Diploma address the issue of credit for prior learning?

MORE FINDINGS

- How will the initiative establish academic alignment with integrated, contextualized, competency based training?
- How can the initiative reduce the cost of remediation at the postsecondary level?

STUDENT FOCUS GROUPS FINDINGS

- Will this option recognize educational attainment achieved in another country?
- Will skills attained through work experience (both domestic and foreign) be factored into this new option?
- Can support services be provided to structure opportunities for increased English language skills?
- What career pathways are available for adults with limited English proficiency? Can this option help students transition quickly into the workforce?

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADULT DIPLOMA WAS A MAJOR 2013 LEGISLATIVE FOCUS FOR LAN

- Bipartisan support and authorship
- Met individually with many legislators
- Testified in front of relevant committees
- Strong support in House and Senate
- Passed without opposition

REASONS FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Need to provide meaningful statewide adult secondary credential – benefit individuals and business by preparing people for the workforce and higher education
- Need to provide statewide access
- Need to standardize adult diploma
- Need for alternative to GED