

DULUTH
ADULT
EDUCATION



LEARN | ACHIEVE | SHINE

Overview of DAE Programs

FREE CLASSES *for* ADULTS AGES 18-99+



Get your GED
or Diploma



Learn English



Build Core Skills



Prepare for College



Start a Career Path



Improve
Computer Skills

+ St. Louis County Jail

ONLINE AND IN PERSON // DAY AND EVENING // TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE // CHILDCARE OPTIONS

START YOUR FUTURE TODAY! *Register Online.*



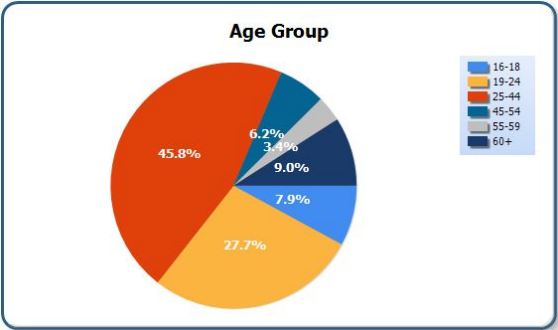
DULUTH
ADULT
EDUCATION



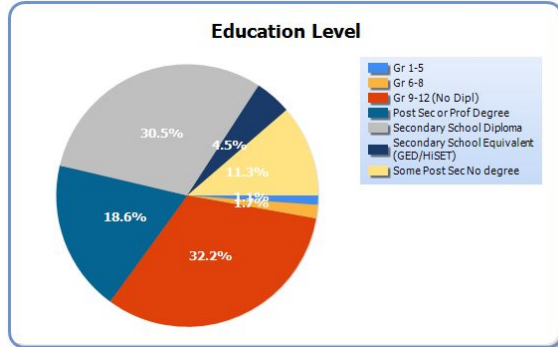
180
Duluth
Public Schools

325 W. 1ST STREET, ARVIG BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR, DULUTH, MN 55802
218-336-8725 // DAE@ISD709.ORG // DAE.ISD709.ORG

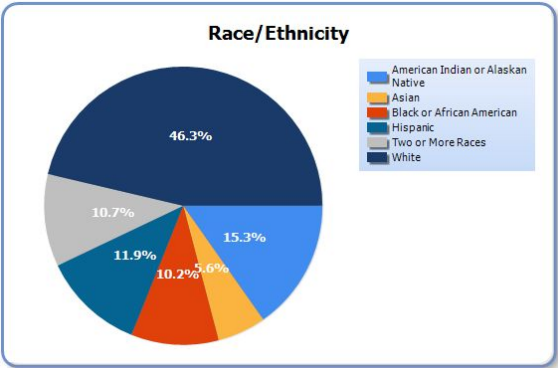
DAE Demographics 2023-2024 - Who are DAE students?



74% ages 19 - 44

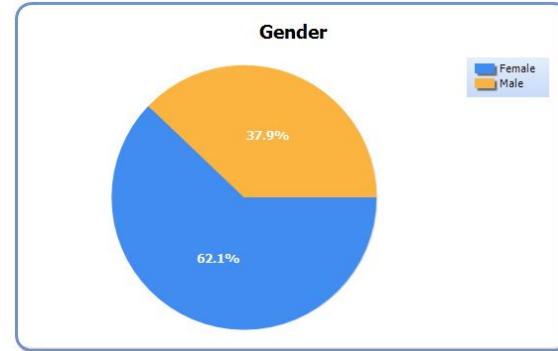


35% have no high school diploma



54% students of color

> This is an increase from 48% last year



62% female students

> State database does allow for "Other gender identity" to be selected

Understanding DAE student experience

- New student surveys implemented this year

How do you hope to feel at DAE?
(incoming survey)

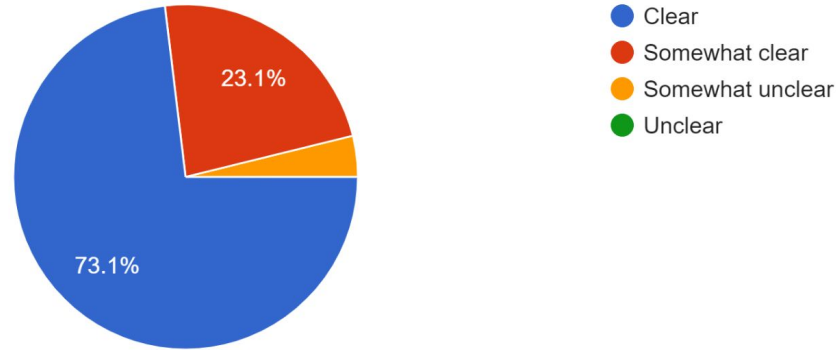


How do you feel at DAE?
(post-survey at 40 + hours)



8. How clear is the path to reaching your goal?

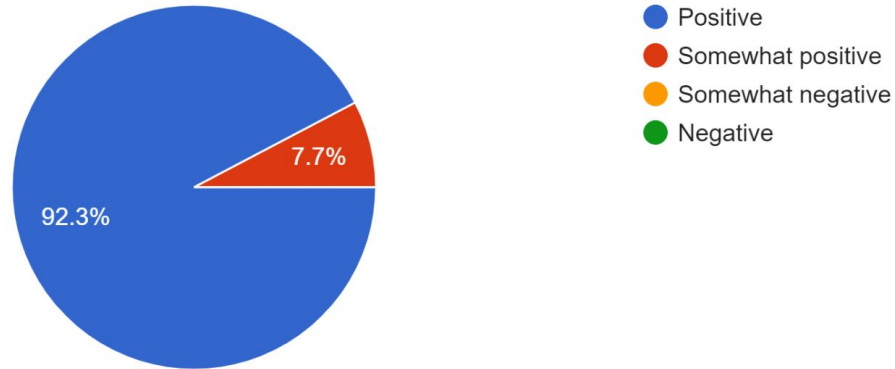
26 responses



Student Comment: “It was super easy and straightforward!”

9. How has your overall experience been as a student in our programs?

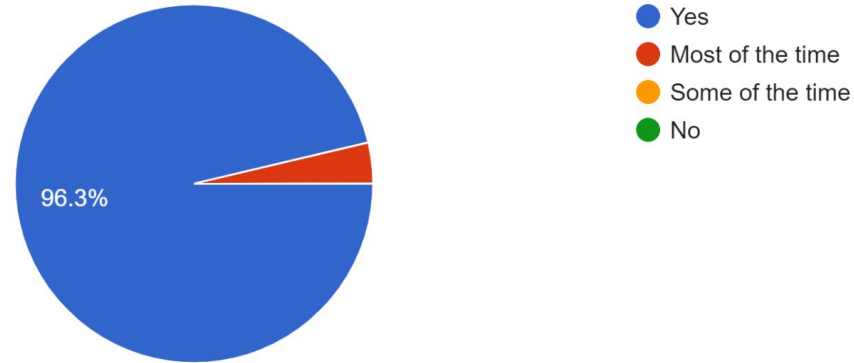
26 responses



Student Comment: “Lots of positive reinforcement. Made it feel as though we mattered individually. The teacher was transparent and human. Lots of laughs!”

10. It is our goal to make everyone feel comfortable, welcome, and safe in our programs. Do you think we accomplished that goal with regard to student diversity, city, religion, age, family system, sexuality, etc.?

27 responses



Student Comment: “I usually feel so uncomfortable because I am the only person that is not white. Something happened here being the only person not white but I wasn't uncomfortable at all. I usually quit because the feeling is too uncomfortable but I looked forward to coming to this class. No problems at all!”

11. Did you learn what you hoped to learn?

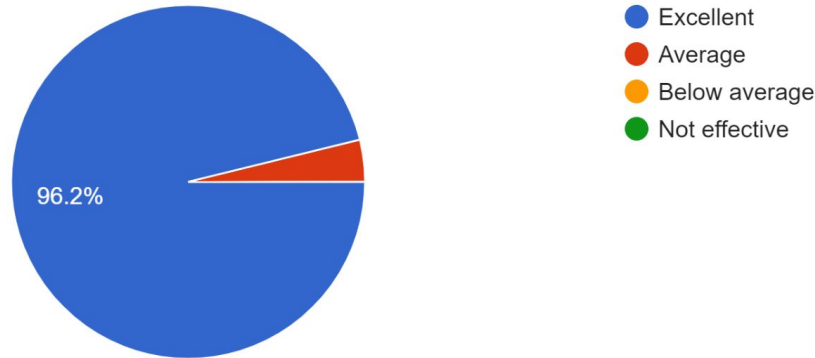
25 responses



Student comment: “I was very fortunate to have teachers who encouraged me to pursue my dreams of being a first time graduate. There would be times I wouldn’t check in and my teachers would reach out to bring me back to focus! I will be the first in my family to have a diploma.”

12. How would you rate the quality of your teacher?

26 responses



Student Comment: “Linnea is an absolutely amazing teacher. She keeps you interested and focused on what she's teaching so you don't get bored and makes it easy to understand.”

DAE Students Served and Contact Hours

- Covid Recovery and Growth

	DATE RANGE	# OF STUDENTS	# OF CONTACT HOURS
Post-Covid Rebuilding	5/1/2023 - 3/30/2024	1047	17,106
Post-Covid Rebuilding	5/1/2022 - 4/30/2023	769	16,377
Covid + Oct. 2021 Move	5/1/2021 - 4/30/2022	425	12,481
Covid	5/1/2020 - 4/30/2021	489	14,045
Covid March 2020	5/1/2019 - 4/30/2020	994	21,118
Pre-Covid	5/1/2018 - 4/30/2019	1235	24,090
Pre-Covid	5/1/2017 - 4/30/2018	1375	21,838

DAE Finances

- Relies on contact hours

Federal Adult Basic Education (ABE) Funding Formula

- Enrollment
- Contact Hours

State Adult Basic Education (ABE) Funding Formula

- Census Count
- Contact Hours
- School District Limited English Proficiency Counts
- School District No-Diploma Counts

Federal and state funds cover all of our programming costs.

Duluth Public Schools

District funds cover our building and infrastructure costs. (Thank you!)

We are so excited for our new space at the DNT!

Through the design process, we worked closely with Bryan Brown and Chris Hogan, architect, to design an ideal space to support student success for adult students. (Approx. 6,800 sq. ft) This includes:

- **A welcoming and trauma-informed space**
 - Natural light, views of nature, clear sightlines, autonomy and choice, spaces that provide a sense of safety, respect, community, and dignity. Sources: [Forbes Article](#) and [Architecture Article](#)
- **Teaching and learning spaces to accommodate our current student population and growth**
 - GED and Diploma classroom
 - English Language (ELL/ESL) classroom
 - Core Skills classroom
 - Career Path classroom
 - Computer lab and student study area
 - 4 testing rooms for GED testing and additional tests administered
 - Student registration room for new students
 - Adequate office space and teacher work area
- **Adult Education as an integral part of the Duluth Public Schools Vision**
 - DAE helps create equity in our community by supporting adult students achieving academic and career goals

Current Growing Pains

We are outgrowing our current location for downtown programming at the Arvig Building (Approx. 4800 sq. ft):

- GED/Diploma teacher and Career teacher share a classroom
- ELL/ESL teacher and Core Skills teacher share a classroom
- Computer lab/multi-purpose room is used daily as a classroom
- Two testing rooms are often at capacity
- Copy machine/teacher work area repurposed for a small group room to accommodate registration, testing, and volunteer tutors
- Our staff room is lined with file cabinets to make room for the small group room
- Data management staff does not have an office and is located in front entry area which results in constant interruptions

And we have a phenomenal staff who put student needs above all else and work together to create a positive environment and experience, even when we are experiencing logistical challenges.

DAE Program Growth Summary

- From 2022/23 to 2023/24

St. Louis County Jail	+ 60%
Core Skills and Computer Skills	+ 50%
English Language Learners (ELL/ESL)	+ 25%
Registration and Distance Learning	+ 35%
Career Path	N/A
College Prep	- 15%
GED and Diploma	- 50%

St. Louis County Jail Program

Class Grants Includes Word: slcj

Student Contact and Proxy Hours

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	Total
Year 2019/2020													
Year 2020/2021													
Year 2021/2022													
Year 2022/2023						38	52	48	99	87	58	69	451
Year 2023/2024	201	150	69	91	134	176	146	92	175	195	150	76	1,655

Approx. 60% increase

Core Skills and Computer Skills Program

Class Grants Includes Word: basic

Student Contact and Proxy Hours

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	Total
Year 2019/2020													
Year 2020/2021													
Year 2021/2022													
Year 2022/2023					34	42	31	39	49	34	50	28	306
Year 2023/2024	73	62	23		64	89	82	43	88	98	104	77	802

Approx. 50% increase

**BRUSH UP
AND REFRESH
CORE SKILLS**

DULUTH ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES

*Want to improve
math and reading skills?*

- Drop In and Independent Study



**FREE
CLASSES**



CHILDCARE
OPTIONS



IN PERSON
OR ONLINE



TRANSIT
ASSISTANCE



DAY AND
EVENING

English Language Learner Program (ELL/ESL)

Class Grants Includes Word: esl

Student Contact and Proxy Hours

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	Total
Year 2019/2020													
Year 2020/2021													
Year 2021/2022													
Year 2022/2023					235	290	345	207	188	180	313	206	1,963
Year 2023/2024	332	208	83	8	292	379	411	246	376	314	244	2	2,892

Approx. 25% increase

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

**DULUTH ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES**

- Beginner/Low Intermediate Class
- Intermediate and Above Class
- Conversation Class



FREE CLASSES


CHILDCARE
OPTIONS


IN PERSON
OR ONLINE


TRANSIT
ASSISTANCE


DAY AND
EVENING

Registration and Distance Learning Platforms (Other)

Class Grants Includes Word: other

Student Contact and Proxy Hours

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	Total
Year 2019/2020													
Year 2020/2021													
Year 2021/2022													
Year 2022/2023				87	491	646	647	507	461	515	472	301	4,125
Year 2023/2024	451	190	235	106	1,011	999	1,048	445	905	747	642	45	6,823

Approx. 35% increase

Career Path Program

Class Grants Includes Word: career

Student Contact and Proxy Hours

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	Total
Year 2019/2020													
Year 2020/2021													
Year 2021/2022													
Year 2022/2023				157	474	223	313	121	230	167	387	197	2,268
Year 2023/2024	14	37							281	24	154	191	699

N/A Impacted by grant cycle which ended June 2023

PARTNERS:

- CareerForce/City of Duluth
- SOAR Career Solutions
- Community Action Duluth
- Lake Superior College
- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Regional Online Career Collaborative (ROCC)

START ON A CAREER PATH

DULUTH ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES

- Healthcare Services
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Construction
- Paraprofessional



**FREE
CLASSES**



IN PERSON
OR ONLINE



DAY AND
EVENING





College Prep Program

Class Grants Includes Word: college

Student Contact and Proxy Hours

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	Total
Year 2019/2020													
Year 2020/2021													
Year 2021/2022													
Year 2022/2023				444	773	778	698	328	362	358	216	252	4,208
Year 2023/2024	102	128	86	415	703	659	613	85	317	286	157	123	3,674

Approx. 15% decline

PARTNERS:

- Lake Superior College

**GET
COLLEGE
READY**

DULUTH ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES

- Pathways Read Write
- Pathways Math Essentials 1
- Pathways Math Essentials 2



**FREE
CLASSES**

 AT LAKE
SUPERIOR
COLLEGE

 IN PERSON
OR ONLINE

START YOUR FUTURE TODAY! Register Online. 

GED and Diploma Program

Class Grants Includes Word: ged

Student Contact and Proxy Hours

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	Total
Year 2019/2020	35	13	39		24	48	30	12	39	47	25	4	315
Year 2020/2021	21	21			8	14	15	7	9	21	46	39	199
Year 2021/2022	43	18	15		18	10	48	27	27	66	87	45	402
Year 2022/2023	43	44	35	12	138	128	116	55	68	88	154	124	1,004
Year 2023/2024	113	17	17	4	52	48	64	32	77	51	57	34	565

Approx. 50% decline

CURRENT PARTNERS

- CareerForce/City of Duluth
- Community Action Duluth
- Life House
- Lake Superior College
- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA)

GET YOUR
GED or
DIPLOMA

DULUTH ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES

- Drop In and Independent Study
- GED Math Lessons
- GED Reading Lessons



FREE
CLASSES



CHILDCARE
OPTIONS



IN PERSON
OR ONLINE



TRANSIT
ASSISTANCE



DAY AND
EVENING

Addressing the College Prep Program Decline

- Decline is, in part, due to the academic calendar.
- Adding online asynchronous classes Fall semester.
- Preparing for MN State changes in Developmental Education courses.

Addressing the GED/Diploma Program Decline

- Is it really that bad?

Probably not.

- Data includes only in person students. Considering many students have moved to distance learning options, where we have seen a 35% increase, the decline may not be as significant.

Additional contributing factors:

- GED or Diploma attainment largely follows economic trends. When it is easy to get a job without a high school diploma, people are less motivated to obtain a high school equivalency.
- Fall 2023 we hired a new GED teacher and they are learning the ropes of how to best work with our GED and diploma students.

Addressing the GED/Diploma Program Decline

- What are we doing to improve?

What we implemented this year:

- An ALC referral process when students age out
- Partnership with AEOA to offer online GED classes in the NE region of the state
- New partnerships: Life House
- Offering online synchronous classes
- Offering free GED Ready tests when students register
- Evening GED tutoring
- GED or Diploma Advising Outreach
- Community gathering events (e.g. student success celebrations)

What we will implement next year:

- Improve student tracking system
- Improve efficiency and efficacy of GED path including curriculum and new classes
- And more that is yet to be determined in collaboration with DAE teachers based on data and student experience over the summer

What we will explore for the future:

- Explore with jail administration if we can support GED and Diploma work with people who are currently incarcerated
- Satellite programs and partnerships

Addressing the GED/Diploma Program Decline

- Top priority to serve the Duluth community

Considering the graduation rates of students of color from our district, we know there are many individuals in our community who could benefit from earning a high school credential. Our priority will be to find out how to best serve individuals and communities of color.

Some starting points:

- Building relationships with communities of color
- Partnerships with organizations that serve communities of color
- Satellite sites
- Hiring people of color as tutors and teachers
- Outreach and marketing
- Getting feedback and listening to our students of color to learn how to best support them on a path to success

Graduation Data

DATE RANGE	# of students earning GEDs	# of students earning DIPLOMAS	Students of Color
5/1/2023 - 3/30/2024	9	21	37%
5/1/2022 - 4/30/2023	25	16	44%
5/1/2021 - 4/30/2022 (October 2021 Move)	6	9	27%
5/1/2020 - 4/30/2021 (Covid)	7	10	35%
5/1/2019 - 4/30/2020 (March 2020 Covid)	5	5	20%
5/1/2018 - 4/30/2019	18	3	43%
5/1/2017 - 4/30/2018	25	1	39%

Measurable Skill Gain (MSG) Data 2023-2024

STATE TARGET	All	White	American Indian/Alaska Native	Black or African American	Hispanic	Asian	Two or More Races
28%	35.7%	42.3%	43.5%	33.3%	28.6%	20%	16.7%

Student Supports - How is DAE supporting students?

- Free childcare
 - Through a partnership with the YMCA
- Free transportation
 - Over 1250 bus passes distributed
- Chromebook checkout
- New Wednesday evening opportunities
 - For registration, English language class, and GED tutoring
- Growing volunteer program
 - Increased from 2 volunteers to 19 in the last two years since beginning a volunteer program
- Creating community
 - Student Success Celebrations
 - Student Events

Student Success Celebration March 2024



"Thank you for being a big help to me and my fellow classmates and making learning fun and understanding. You change lives daily and deserve to be appreciated always for the work you do. Thank you for everything!" - DAE Career Path Student