

Update Report on Blomfield Adult Education, FY 25-26

Adult Education successfully completed its fall and spring programs and continues to plan for the next fiscal year. We faced some ups and downs, especially with winter weather; however, the program has continued to provide a stable and viable connection within the Bloomfield community. We serve roughly 50 residents per year focusing on English Language Learners, Adult Literacy, High School Equivalency, and Citizenship Preparation.

Number of Students/Offerings

The Adult Education program completed its 12-week-long spring semester on May 20, 2026. We finished within our operating budget and served a combined number of 45 students in our state-mandated programs. Adult students also enrolled in our Leisure & Enrichment classes offered in small 4-6 week blocks for those interested in Genealogy, Mindfulness, Crochet, and Playing the Ukulele. Combined attendance for Adult Leisure was 22 students in the past year.

Program Strengths

Bloomfield Adult Education is one of the comparatively smaller program entities in the state. All staff is part-time including the director, office manager, and school counselor. Certified instructors for ESL, GED, and Citizenship work two evenings per week during the spring and fall. We are conscious of leveraging our small size for building strong, trusting relationships with our students, celebrating successes and remediating weaknesses along the way. Non-teaching staff is versatile, adapting to multiple roles: testing, attendance, job counseling, and data management.

Program Needs

Attendance and Retention are two areas of concern for Adult Education. About half of those students enrolled are “returning” through back-to-back fall and spring semesters. Currently, we are following up with past students, reaching out to encourage their return to our program. This past year our enrollment reports showed a slight drop. Attendance was slowed by weather factors, job conflicts, and adult family responsibilities. As Director, I have pursued community collaboration to improve our visibility, especially with Bloomfield Public Library. Also, we are re-visiting our marketing and promotional materials. Our web page is part of the district website; however, we are looking to improve our online presence.

In September Adult Ed will be hosting for the first time a 3-night program on Career Navigation. This will be presented by a representative of the American Job Center. The program’s focus will include job search and exploration skills, emphasizing a school-to-work connection and helping with immediate employment needs.

Program Costs

Our total annual budget of combined state and local funds has been holding at \$84,207. The greatest portion of these funds (about 70 %) is spent on teacher payroll at \$46.25 per hour, followed by textbook, testing, and administrative costs. A complete itemization of the budget figure was submitted in our state grant report, ED-245, on March 15, 2026. We are still waiting for final approval from the State Department of Education of our allocations request for Fiscal Year 2027. Our thanks to Domenic Greco for his assistance with the processing of the Adult Ed state grant.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Bailey

Director, Program Facilitator