

September 2024

# The Melting Pot Newsletter

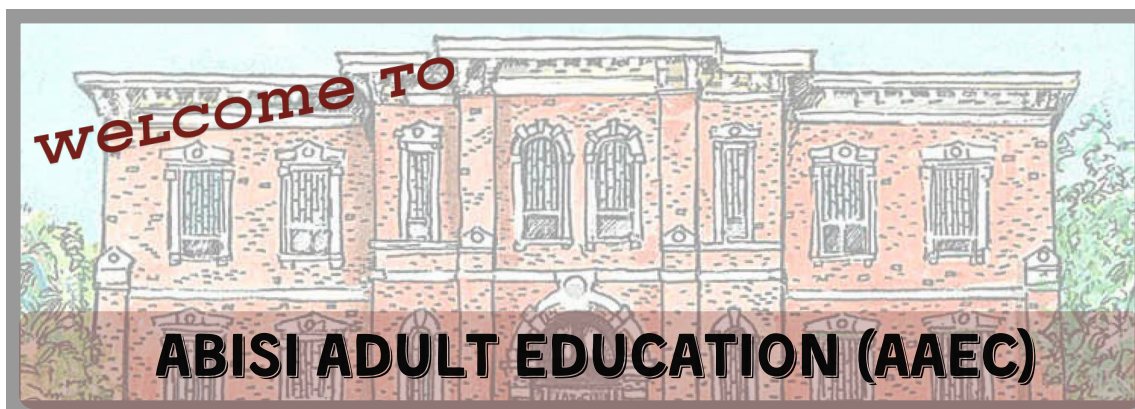
*A Publication for Students & Supporters*



*Equity, Excellence, Empowerment.*

Frederick Abisi  
Adult Education Center  
408 Merrimack Street  
Lowell, MA 01854  
978.937.8989

[www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted](http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted)



Lowell Adult Education by Janet Lambert Moore

## Message from the Director

I want to wish each of our students a very warm welcome to the Abisi Adult Education Center.

We are very excited to have you enrolled in our classes. The center is designed to help each of you meet your educational needs and career goals. We know how important education is in the 21st century, and we strive to assist you to meet your goals.

Our dedicated and experienced staff will work with you to improve your

skills while making your time with us productive and enjoyable.

Warmest regards,

*Betty*



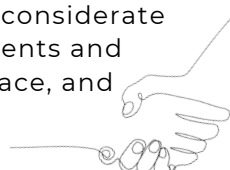
*Betty McKiernan is the Director of Abisi Adult Education Program.*

*Her office is on the Main Floor of our building.*

## Message Statement & Culture of Respect

Our mission is to provide each and every adult in Greater Lowell with opportunities to develop literacy and math skills needed to qualify for further education, job training and better employment, and to reach their full potential as a family member, productive worker, and citizen.

At Abisi Adult Education Center, all students and staff are considerate of each other. We learn to respect each other's diverse talents and differences in culture, education, economic status, color, race, and religion.



### In this newsletter you can expect:

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# THE AAEC WEBSITE

Our website,  
**[www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted](http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted)**  
has a lot of great  
information and  
tools to help you  
with your classes  
& achieve your  
goals!

Click "**Testing  
Center**" for  
HiSET/GED  
schedules &  
transcript  
information.

The **Student  
Resources** tab  
connects you to  
practice sites,  
community links to  
help you achieve your  
goals & more!



Bookmark our website  
for easy access!

## Abisi Adult Education Center

Lowell, Massachusetts

District

Select a School

I want to...

Here are just a few resources  
available on our website:

- **ESOL & HSE websites with practice activities**  
for classes & skill-building
- **Educational, Career, & Job resources**
- **AAEC program information**
- **HiSET/GED testing schedules**
- **The Melting Pot newsletter**

...and lots more!

# SCAN ME



## "The Road to Success Begins with Good Attendance"

You are expected to be in class every day and to be on time.  
If you miss too many days, you risk giving up your space  
to someone who is on our waiting list.

**Already know that you will be absent?**

**Let your teacher know!**

-- or email --

**ESOL Classes:** ✉ [sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us)

**HSE Classes:** ✉ [swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us)

💡 In your message, remember to give:

**YOUR NAME, YOUR TEACHER's NAME**  
and **REASON for your absence**

# Student Reward Program

The *Student Reward Program* helps you earn points for:

- **Outstanding monthly attendance**
- **Achieving Goals**
  - Every goal you reach has a set point value. Tell your teacher when you complete a goal to earn points.
- **Reading**
  - We want to reward you for reading books from our library cart. Fill out the forms your teacher gives you to get points for reading.

Each month, students will receive a statement that shows your total earned Reward Points. You can use these points to get prizes/gifts from the Abisi Adult Education Reward Center.

The Reward Center is located on the first floor in the back of Room 3 (Teacher Martha's Room). It will be open once a month so you can use your points. We will post the dates in the newsletter. You can save your points to get bigger rewards or cash them in at any time.

**Remember, Reward Points cannot be shared.  
You cannot give your points to another student.**

*If you have any questions, ask Giovanna,  
our Program Support Person.*

## AAEC Visitor Policy

### **Lowell Public School Policy:**

All outside visitors must report to the Main Office and sign in and out.

### **For the safety of all of our AAEC students:**

- outside visitors are not allowed to contact students during class time (or to interrupt class)
- deliveries and drop-offs are not accepted at the office

💡 Make sure you have all your materials & items before you come to school.

*If there is an emergency, please speak with the office staff, and they will be happy to assist you.*

## Abisi Adult Education Test Center

Abisi Adult Education Center is an official Test Center for the HiSET and GED exams. These exams are the pathway to earn a High School credential in Massachusetts. Candidates are awarded the credential when they have successfully passed all subject tests in one, or a combination of both exams. Upon completion, the Credential must be ordered from DiplomaSender.com.

**HiSET tests can be taken on paper or computer.**

**GED tests are only available on a computer.**

Throughout the school year, the AAEC Test Center schedules one testing weekend each month. Paper-based HiSET appointments and GED appointments begin on Friday night at 5pm, and resume the following Saturday morning at 8am. Candidates can take multiple tests between the two days.

AAEC also offers computer based appointments on some Thursday afternoons at 12:30pm, rotating the HiSET and the GED each time.

Schedules will be announced in the Melting Pot newsletter and posted around the school.

*If you have any questions about the GED or the HiSET exams, please see Denise in the LAB. She is here on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.*



## Career & Educational Advisors

Our Career and Educational Advisors are available to help with your job search and/or education plans. They will help you make a resume, look for a job, or decide if job training or college is right for you. They can also connect you with services and activities in your community.



### Margie Miller

Office: Room 5 - Back

✉ [mmiller@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:mmiller@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Margie is your link to the MassHire Lowell Career Center.

Contact Margie to learn about the services available at MassHire and how to become a member today!

#### Margie's schedule:

##### Tuesdays:

8 - 11am (at MassHire)  
11am - 1pm (at Abisi)

##### Wednesdays:

8-11am (at Abisi)

##### Thursdays:

8 - 11am (at MassHire)  
11am - 1pm (at Abisi)



### Martha McQuaide

Office: Second Floor,  
Room 6 - Back

✉ [mmcquaide@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:mmcquaide@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Martha works with our HSE students.

#### Martha's Schedule:

**Tuesdays & Thursdays** (in-person)

**Wednesdays** (remote)

8:30am - 1:00pm

&

by appointment.



### Cindy Taft

Office: Room 6 - Back

✉ [ctaft@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:ctaft@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Cindy works with our morning ESOL students.

#### Cindy's Schedule:

MWF 8am - 1pm



## Student Support Services

### Mandi Lacroix

Student Services Coordinator

Office: Room 3 - Back

✉ [alacroix@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:alacroix@lowell.k12.ma.us)

### Fred McOsker

HSE Student Support Services

Office: Room 6 - Back

✉ [fmcosker@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:fmcosker@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Mandi and Fred work with the Director, staff, teachers, and student leaders to create programs that support your goals and organize special school events.

They can help you:

- Connect with community agencies
- Find out about cultural events and city services
- Receive guidance and counseling when needed

## AAEC Staff



### Adriana Giraldo

ABE Program Manager

Office: Main Office

✉ [agiraldo@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:agiraldo@lowell.k12.ma.us)

As Abisi's ABE manager, Adriana works with the Director to ensure that the program runs smoothly and meets all important requirements.

She supports students, staff, and community partners to make sure everyone and keeps track of important program information.



### Gladys Marrero

School Clerk

Office: Main Office

✉ [gmarrero@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:gmarrero@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Gladys is the first person to greet you in the Main Office. She can provide information about classes and help you with registration for our ESOL and HSE programs.

She also manages the HiSET paper-based testing.



## AAEC Staff



### Giovanna De Oliveira

Program Support

Office: Room 3 - Back

✉ [gdeoliveira@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:gdeoliveira@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Giovanna handles program support. She is responsible for Attendance Certificates and the Reward Program. You can find her in the back of Martha's classroom.



### Bob

Program Support

Bob is at the front door every morning greeting students and assisting visitors.



### Denise Beal

HSE Testing Coordinator

Office: Computer Lab

✉ [dbeal@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:dbeal@lowell.k12.ma.us)

She oversees the HiSET® and GED® computer-based testing and is here to answer your questions about the exams. She can also help with test registration and accommodations.

#### Denise's schedule:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
and Thursdays  
by appointment



### Fred DeVitto

Custodian

Office: Lower Level

"Freddy" is our custodian. He keeps our building clean and running smoothly.

## ESOL Registration Staff



### Amanda Pearson

ESOL Registrar

Office: Main Office

✉ [apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us)



### Sochitra Chan

ESOL Attendance

✉ [sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us)

## HSE Registration Staff



### Sarah Waterhouse

HSE Registrar & Attendance

Office: Computer Lab

✉ [swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us)

### Marcia Burns-Mittler

HSE Testing - Remote

✉ [mburnsmittler@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:mburnsmittler@lowell.k12.ma.us)

# REMEMBER...

## Stay Home If You Feel Sick...



Noun Project Icons: miftahul huda, ainul muttakin, Groovy Icons

*Let's keep our school safe and healthy!*

"Education is the  
most powerful weapon  
which you can use  
to change the world."

— Nelson Mandela



# English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

ESOL classes are for adult learners whose native language is not English. Students are placed in introductory, beginner, or intermediate classes to improve their reading, writing, and speaking skills. All instruction is in English. ***Students must be at least 18 years old to attend our classes.***

## AAEC LEAD ESOL TEACHERS



## Abisi “Green School” - ESOL Staff

*The “Green School” refers to the Abisi main site (408 Merrimack Street in Lowell).*

Carrie Carolan	Room 11	ccarolan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Daisy Glavin	Room 10	dglavin@lowell.k12.ma.us
Liz Nutile (Lead Teacher)	Room 2	enutile@lowell.k12.ma.us
Martha Rzepala (Lead Teacher)	Room 3	mrzepala@lowell.k12.ma.us
Meg Chase (Lead Teacher)	Room 4	margarethouse@lowell.k12.ma.us
Debbie Francoeur	Remote	dfrancoeur@lowell.k12.ma.us
Zeb Khan	Remote	zkhan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Gail Forman	Civics - Citizenship	gforman@lowell.k12.ma.us
Elaine McGeown	Math	emcgeown@lowell.k12.ma.us
Kenny Martin	Civics	kmartin@lowell.k12.ma.us
Cindy Taft	Room 6 - Back	ctaft@lowell.k12.ma.us

## LIBRARY

The Susan Silk Library Carts are small mobile libraries for AAEC morning students. ESOL and HSE students can borrow books to help them practice reading. You can also share the books with your family at home. Reading to your children helps encourage a love for reading.

Each class will have a special time for students to pick a book to borrow. There are many types of books to choose from, for all different reading levels.



## High School Equivalence (HSE)

Adult Basic Education (HSE) classes help adult students improve their reading, writing, and math skills in order to take the high school equivalency exams, and/or prepare for college entrance exams.

Residents of Massachusetts who desire to earn a high school equivalency credential have the choice of two exams: GED and HiSET. The Abisi Adult Education Center (AAEC) is an official testing center for both exams. The successful completion of either the GED or HiSET exam will earn a Massachusetts high school credential, opening up doors for college and better career opportunities.

### AAEC LEAD HSE TEACHERS



HSE Staff		
Maura McCabe (Lead Teacher)	Room 7	mmccabe@lowell.k12.ma.us
Christina Cronin (Lead Teacher)	Room 5	christinacronin@lowell.k12.ma.us
Donna Rogers	Room 6	drogers@lowell.k12.ma.us
Robin Dowling	Room 8	rhdownling@lowell.k12.ma.us
Allison McCarthy	Room 8	amccarthy@lowell.k12.ma.us
Nancy Bernard	Room 7	nbernard@lowell.k12.ma.us
Elaine McGeown	Math - Room 6	emcgeown@lowell.k12.ma.us
Barbara Goodridge	Remote	bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us
Sarah Crass	Remote	scrass@lowell.k12.ma.us
Lauren Chenelle	Remote	lchenelle@lowell.k12.ma.us
Martha McQuaide	Room 6 - Back / Remote	mmcquaide@lowell.k12.ma.us
Fred McCosker	Room 6 - Back	fmcosker@lowell.k12.ma.us



### ESOL & HSE: Attendance Certificates

We are proud of students who come to school every day. Each month, our Director, Betty McKiernan, gives special certificates to students with excellent attendance in each class.

#### Remember:

*"The road to success begins with good attendance."*



## ESOL CLASS OFFERINGS || 2024-2025

IN-PERSON	MORNINGS	EVENINGS	
	Main Day Site: Abisi Adult Education Center 408 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01854	Main Evening Site: Lowell High School 50 Father Morissette Blvd. Lowell, MA 01852	
	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Level: Intermediate to advanced	Monday/Wednesday 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm Level: Beginner to advanced level	
	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am - 11:30 am Level: Beginner		
	Thursday/Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Level: Beginner		
	CMAA 465 School Street Lowell, MA 01851	CMAA 465 School Street Lowell, MA 01851	
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Level: Beginner to intermediate	Tuesday/Wednesday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Level: Intermediate	Thursday/Friday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Level: Beginner
	MAPS 490 Central Street Lowell, MA 01852	Moody School 158 Rogers Street Lowell, MA 01852	
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Level: Beginner to advanced		
	LASA (Love All Serve All) 40 Old Ferry Road Lowell, MA 01854		
REMOTE	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Level: Beginner to advanced level	Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm Level: Beginner to advanced	
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am – 11:00 am Level: Beginner  Thursday/Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Level: Intermediate to advanced	Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm Level: Beginner to advanced level	

## HSE CLASS OFFERINGS || 2024-2025

IN-PERSON	MORNINGS	EVENINGS	
	Main Day Site: Abisi Adult Education Center 408 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01854	Main Evening Site: Lowell High School 50 Father Morissette Blvd. Lowell, MA 01852	
	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Friday 9:00 am - 10:45 am	Monday/Wednesday 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	
	CTI - 167 Dutton Street, Lowell, MA 01852		
REMOTE	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm		
	Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Monday/Wednesday 6:00 pm - 8:30pm	

## Abisi Adult Education Center School Calendar

AAEC follows the Lowell Public Schools (LPS) calendar for school vacation weeks, holidays, and snow days.

- If LPS **cancels** school for the day, there will be **no AAEC morning or evening classes**.
- If LPS **delays** the opening of school **by 1 hour**, **morning classes will start at 10:00 am**.
- If LPS **delays** the opening of school **by 2 hours**, there will be **no AAEC morning classes** (evening classes will run as scheduled).

Lowell Public Schools    2024-25 Holidays & School Breaks		
<b>September</b>	Monday, September 2, 2024	No School - Labor Day
	Tuesday, September 3, 2024	No School - State Primary Elections
<b>October</b>	Monday, October 14, 2024	No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
<b>November</b>	Tuesday, November 5, 2024	No School - Election Day
	Monday, November 11, 2024	No School - Veterans Day Observed
	Thursday, November 28, 2024	No School - Thanksgiving Day
	Friday, November 29, 2024	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
<b>2025</b>		
<b>December</b>	Friday, December 20, 2024	Winter Vacation Begins at the Close of School
	<b>Holiday Break</b>	Saturday, December 21 - Wednesday, January 1, 2025
<b>January</b>	Thursday, January 2, 2025	School Re-opens
	Monday, January 20, 2025	No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
<b>February</b>	Friday, February 14, 2025	Mid-Winter Vacation Begins at the Close of School
	<b>Mid-Winter Break</b>	Monday, February 17 - Friday, February 21, 2025
	Monday, February 24, 2025	School Re-opens
<b>April</b>	Thursday, April 17, 2025	Spring Vacation Begins at the Close of School
	<b>Spring Vacation Break</b>	Monday, April 21- Friday, April 25, 2025
	Monday, April 28, 2025	School Re-opens
<b>May</b>	Monday, May 26, 2025	No School - Memorial Day
<b>June</b>	Friday, June 13, 2025	180th School Day
	Thursday, June 19, 2025	Juneteenth
	Monday, June 23, 2025	185th School Day (Includes five (5) Snow Days)

**Note:** Wednesday ½ day - Early Release for grades Pre-K - 12 **does not** affect AAEC class schedule.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

WE VALUE YOUR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS! IF THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT OUR PROGRAM YOU LIKE OR SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGED (OR ADDED), PLEASE TALK TO YOUR TEACHER OR EMAIL THE AAEC DIRECTOR, BETTY MCKIERNAN, AT [EMCKIERNAN@LOWELL.K12.MA.US](mailto:EMCKIERNAN@LOWELL.K12.MA.US).



## CONNECT WITH US

Are you on social media? What social media channels do you use? Let us know -- Take our poll! We will publish the results in a future edition of *The Melting Pot* newsletter.



To take our social media poll,  
scan the QR Code above  
-or-  
type the URL below in your  
web browser:

[https://form.jotform.com/  
242593412331147](https://form.jotform.com/242593412331147)



FREDERICK ASSAD ABISI  
ADULT EDUCATION CENTER  
LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Social Media Poll

1. Do you use social media? 🇺🇸 \*

☐ yes  
☐ no  
☐ sometimes

2. If you said "yes" or "sometimes,"  
which ones you use below?

☐ Facebook  
☐ Instagram  
☐ TikTok

Scan to visit  
our website:



Like us on  
Facebook!

