

THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center

408 Merrimack St, Lowell MA, 01854

www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com - (978) 937-8989

Welcome to Abisi Adult Education Center (AAEC)

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 is the Director of the Abisi Adult Education Program. Her office is located on the Main Floor of our building.



"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go." – Unknown

Inside this Issue:

Program Information and Activities	2
Program offerings	5
ESOL	6
HSE	7
Career and Educational Advisors	8
AAEC staff	9
School year calendar	10

MISSION STATEMENT AND CULTURE OF RESPECT

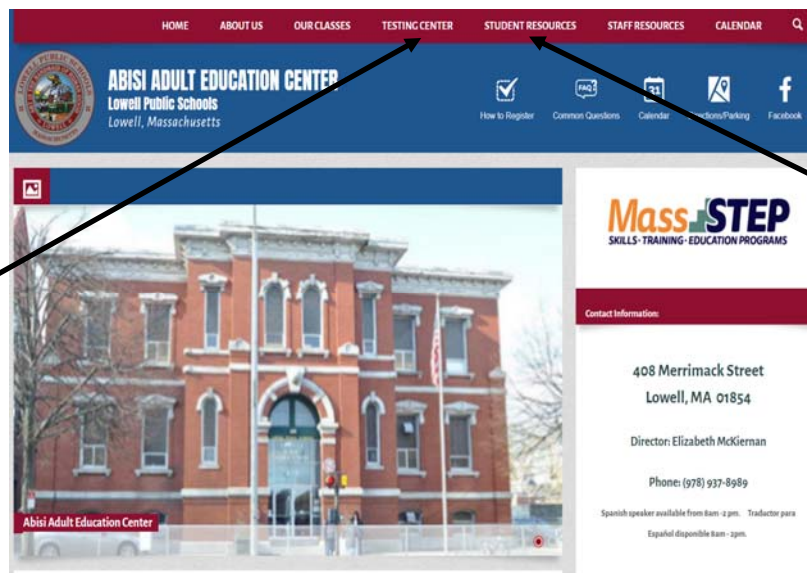
Our mission is to provide each and every adult in Greater Lowell with opportunities to develop literacy and math skills needed to qualify for further education, job training and better employment, and to reach their full potential as a family member, productive worker, and citizen.

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

THE AAEC WEBSITE

The AAEC website, www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com, is a great tool for students to utilize outside of the classroom. It provides students with a variety of resources all in one place. Students can access websites offering practice activities for ESOL instruction and HSE classes; links to educational, career, and job resources; AAEC program information; HiSET/GED testing schedule; color copies of The Melting Pot Newsletter; and more.

The website also has an online resource directory that gives students information about community agencies and services directly connected to the goals they want to achieve.



If looking for HiSET/GED testing information, FAQ, schedules, and transcript information.

Student Resources link will connect you to great ESOL and HSE practice sites, community links to help you achieve your goals, and more.

Find the Melting Pot newsletter in full color on our homepage.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

“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 your space to someone who is on our waiting list.

If you know in advance that you will be absent, let your teacher know. You can also send an email to:

ESOL Classes—sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us

or

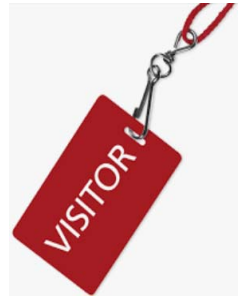
HSE Classes—swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us



Leave a detailed message stating your name, teacher, and reason for your absence.

VISITOR POLICY

Lowell Public School Policy states all outside visitors must report to the Main Office and sign in and out. For the safety of all our AAEC students, outside visitors are not allowed to contact students during class time or to interrupt classes. If you forgot something at home or someone needs to leave something for you, make arrangements to meet them after class. Deliveries and drop-offs are not accepted in the office. Please make sure you have all your materials and items before coming to school. Your class time is short and important for your continued success. If there is an emergency, please speak with the office staff, and they will assist you.



DO YOU FEEL SICK?

**If you're sick,
please stay HOME**



If you're not feeling well, it's best to stay home. Please let us know.

SUGGESTION BOX

There is a suggestion box on each floor. Please tell us what you like about the program and what you would like to see changed or added to the program. We value your ideas and thoughts! Of course, you can also tell your suggestions directly to Betty, the Director, or to any staff members.



GRADUATION



June 7, 2024
Save the date!

The Abisi Adult Education Center has a graduation ceremony every year in June at the Lowell High School Auditorium. Diplomas are awarded to students who complete their high school credentials and certificates are awarded to ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) students who progress through a level of English instruction.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES



The Lowell Adult Education Center recognizes students' efforts to come to school every day. Each month, our Director, Betty McKiernan, awards students with outstanding attendance certificates in each class.

LIBRARY

The Susan Silk Library Carts are mobile libraries for AAEC morning students. ESOL and HSE students can borrow books from the library cart to help practice their reading skills and share family members at home. Reading to your children helps to encourage a love for reading.

Each class will have a set time for students to select a book to borrow. There are many genres to choose from and all different ability levels.



STUDENT REWARD PROGRAM

The "Student Reward Program" allows students to earn points for:

- **Outstanding monthly attendance**
- **Achieving their goals.** Each goal has a preassigned point value. Students should notify their teacher once they achieve a goal.
- **Reading.** AAEC wants to recognize students' efforts and time when they read books from our library cart and fill out the forms the teachers give out.



Each month, students receive a statement with their total earned Reward Points.

These points can be redeemed for rewards (prizes/gifts) at the Abisi Adult Education Reward Center. The Reward Center is located in the back of Martha's Room on the first floor. Once a month the Rewards Center will be open for students to redeem their Points.

Dates will be posted in the newsletter each month. You can accumulate your Reward Points to get the biggest rewards or cash them in at any time.

Reward Points are not transferable. You cannot give your reward points to another student.

Giovanna, our Program Support Person, can answer all of your questions about this program.

ESOL Class Offering

		MORNING	EVENING	
In-person	Main Day Site Abisi Adult Education Center 408 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01854	Main Evening Site Lowell High School 50 Father Morrisette Blvd. Lowell, MA 01852		
	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 9:00 am–12:00 pm (Beginner to advanced level)	Monday/Wednesday 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm (Beginner to advanced level)		
	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am-11:30 am (Beginner level)			
	CMAA 465 School Street Lowell, MA 01851	CMAA 465 School Street Lowell, MA 01851		
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am -12:00 pm (Beginner to intermediate level)	Tuesday/Wednesday 5:00 pm -8:00 pm (Intermediate level)	Thursday/Friday 5:00 pm -8:00 pm (Beginner level)	
	MAPS 490 Central Street Lowell, MA 01852	Moody School 158 Rogers Street Lowell, MA 01852		
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Beginner to advanced level)	Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm (Beginner to advanced level)		
		MORNING	EVENING	
Remote	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am – 11:00 am (Beginner level)	Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm (Beginner to advanced level)		
	Thursday/Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (Beginner to advanced level)			

HSE Class Offering

		MORNING	EVENING	
In-person	Main Day Site Abisi Adult Education Center 408 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01854	Main Evening Site Lowell High School 50 Father Morrisette Blvd. Lowell, MA 01852		
	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am–12:00 pm	Monday/Wednesday 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm		
	Friday 9:00 am – 10:45 am			
	CTI - 167 Dutton Street Lowell, MA 01852			
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:30 am – 12:30 am			
		MORNING	EVENING	
Remote	Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm		Monday/Wednesday 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	

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.



Meg, Liz and Martha are the Lead Teachers in our ESOL Program.

ESOL Staff		
Carrie	Room 11	ccarolan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Jen	Room 10	jtighe@lowell.k12.ma.us
Liz	Room 2	enutile@lowell.k12.ma.us
Martha	Room 3	mrzepala@lowell.k12.ma.us
Meg	Room 4	mchase@lowell.k12.ma.us
Debbie	Remote	dfrancoeur@lowell.k12.ma.us
Zeb	Remote	zkhan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Gail	Civics	gforman@lowell.k12.ma.us
Elaine	Math	emcgeown@lowell.k12.ma.us
Paul	Civics/Math	pflanagan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Kenny	Civics	kmartin@lowell.k12.ma.us
Cindy	Room 6—Back	ctaft@lowell.k12.ma.us

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCE (HSE)



Christina and Maura are the Lead Teachers in our HSE Program.

Adult Basic Education (HSE) classes help students improve their reading, writing, and math skills in order to take the high school equivalency exams, increase their career readiness skills, 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 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.

HSE Staff		
Maura	Room 7	mmccabe@lowell.k12.ma.us
Christina	Room 5	christinacronin@lowell.k12.ma.us
Donna	Room 6	drogers@lowell.k12.ma.us
Robin	Room 8	rdowling@lowell.k12.ma.us
Allison	Room 7	amccarthy@lowell.k12.ma.us
Nancy	Room 7	nbernard@lowell.k12.ma.us
Elaine	Math—Room 2	emcgeown@lowell.k12.ma.us
Esther	Remote	emacdonald@lowell.k12.ma.us
Steve	Remote	sferri@lowell.k12.ma.us
Barbara	Remote	bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us
Sarah	Remote	scrass@lowell.k12.ma.us
Martha	Room 6—Back	mmcquaide@lowell.k12.ma.us
Fred	Room 6—Back	fmcosker@lowell.k12.ma.us

CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL ADVISORS

Our Career and Educational Advisors are available to help you with your job search and/or education plans. They work together with you to create resumes, assist in the process of searching for a job, and decide on which work training program or college to attend. They can help you connect with services and activities in the community.



Margie is your connection to the MassHire Lowell Career Center. It is a community organization that helps people search for a job or get a better job. She can help you learn about the different services they offer and become a MassHire member.

Margie

Room 5 – Back

mmiller@lowell.k12.ma.us

Cindy works with our morning ESOL students. She is here Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00am—1:00pm. Her office is located in the back of Room 6 on the second floor.



Cindy

Room 6 – Back

ctaft@lowell.k12.ma.us



Martha works with our HSE students. She is in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays and remote on Wednesdays from 8:30am - 1:00 pm.

She is also available by appointment. Her office is located in the back of Room 6 on the second floor.

Martha

Room 6 – Back

mmcquaide@lowell.k12.ma.us

Student Support Services

Adriana—Student Services Coordinator

Room 3 – Back

agiraldo@lowell.k12.ma.us

Fred—Student Support Services

Room 6—Back

fmcosker@lowell.k12.ma.us

Adriana and Fred work closely with our Director, staff, teachers, and student representatives to implement different programs related to students' goals and to coordinate special school activities. They can assist you in connecting with people at agencies in the community, give you information about cultural events and city services, and provide guidance and counseling when needed.

AAEC STAFF

Gladys—Secretary

Room 1 - Main Office

gmarrero@lowell.k12.ma.us

Gladys is our School Clerk. She is the first person to greet you in the Main Office and can provide you with information regarding classes and registration for our ESOL and HSE programs. Gladys also facilitates the HiSET-Paper Based testing.

Denise Beal—ADA and Testing Coordinator

Room 1 - Main Office

dbeal@lowell.k12.ma.us

Denise is our HSE Testing Specialist. She facilitates the HiSET[®] and GED[®] Computer-Based Testing and is available to help with test registration and answer your general testing questions. You can find her in the Main Office.

Amanda

ESOL Registrar

Room 1 - Main Office

apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us

Jennifer

ESOL Testing

Room 2 – Back

jcarrasquillo@lowell.k12.ma.us

Sochitra

ESOL Attendance

Room 1 – Main Office

sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us

Amanda, Jennifer, and Sochitra are our ESOL registration staff. Amanda maintains student records and placement for all our ESOL classes.

Sarah

HSE Registrar and Attendance

Computer Lab

swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us

Marcia

HSE Testing

Remote

mburnsmittler@lowell.k12.ma.us

Sarah and Marcia are our HSE Registration staff. Sarah oversees students records, placement, and testing for all our HSE classes.

Giovanna—Program Support

Room 3 – Back

gdeoliveira@lowell.k12.ma.us

Giovanna is responsible for program support. She is in charge of Attendance Certificates as well as the Reward Program. You will find her in the back of Martha's room.

Bob—Program Support

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

Carl—Custodian

Carl is our custodian. He keeps our building clean and running smoothly. His office is located on the Lower Level.

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Abisi Adult Education Center (AAEC) follows the Lowell Public Schools calendar for school vacation weeks, holidays, and snow days.

If the Lowell Public Schools **cancels** school for the day, there will be no AAEC **morning or evening** classes.



Lowell Public Schools – 2023-2024 Holidays and School Breaks

2023		
September	Monday, September 4, 2023	No School – Labor Day
October	Monday, October 9, 2023	No School – Indigenous Peoples’ Day
November	Tuesday, November 7, 2023	No School – Election Day
	Friday, November 10, 2023	No School – Veterans’ Day Observed
	Wednesday, November 22, 2023	Early Dismissal (10:45 am)
	Thursday, November 23, 2023	No School – Thanksgiving Day
	Friday, November 24, 2022	No School – Thanksgiving Recess
December	Friday, December 22, 2023	Holiday Vacation Begins at the Close of school
	Holiday Break	Saturday December 23, 2023 – Monday, January 1, 2024
2024		
January	Tuesday, January 2, 2024	School Re-open
	Monday, January 15, 2024	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February	Friday, February 16, 2024	Mid-Winter Vacation Begins at the Close of school
	Mid-Winter Break	Monday, February 19, 2024 – Friday, February 23, 2024
	Monday, February 26, 2024	School Re-open
March	Friday, March 29, 2024	No School – Good Friday
April	Friday, April 12, 2024	Spring Vacation Begins at the Close of school
	Spring Break	Monday, April 15, 2024 – Friday, April 19, 2024
	Monday, April 22, 2024	School Re-open
May	Monday, May 27, 2024	No School – Memorial Day
June	Tuesday, June 11, 2024	180 th School Day
	Tuesday, June 18, 2024	185 th School Day (Includes five(5) Snow Days)
	Wednesday, June 19, 2024	Juneteenth

*Wednesday 1/2 day – Early Release for grades Pre K – 12 **does not** affect AAEC class schedule.*