

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



"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

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.

MISSION STATEMENT AND CULTURE OF RESPECT

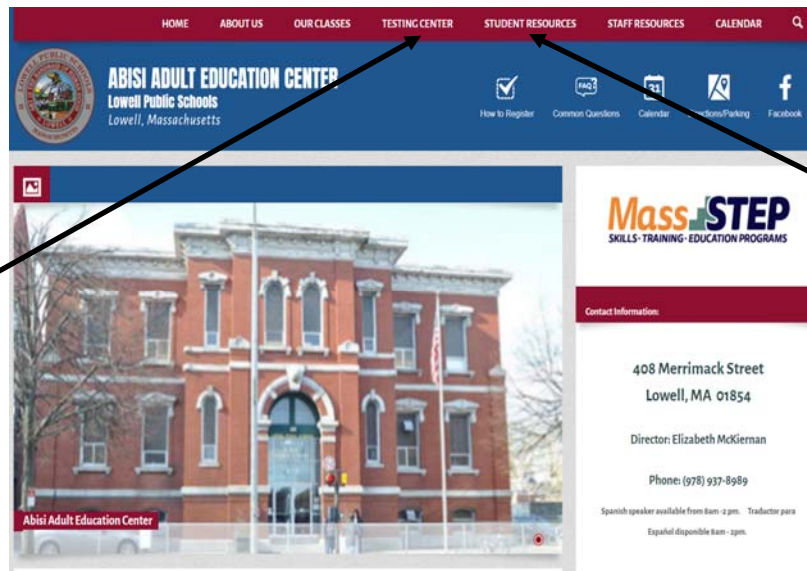
Our mission is to provide each and every adult in Greater Lowell with opportunities to develop literacy and math skills needed to qualify for further education, job training and better employment, and to reach his/her full potential as a family member, productive worker, and citizen.

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”

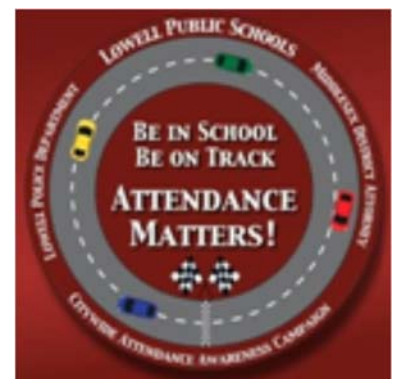
You are expected to be in class every day and to be on time. If you miss too many days, you risk giving your space to someone who is on our waiting list.

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

ESOL Classes—apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us or

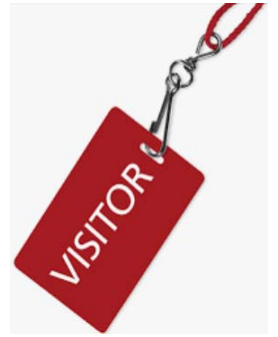
HSE Classes—bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us

If you don't have email, you can call (978) 937-8989. 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 of materials and items before you leave for 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.



COVID-19



COVID-19 guidelines still require people to isolate at home for five days with a positive test result. If symptoms improve, students can return to school on days 6-10 if they wear a mask. The most updated policies from the CDC can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>.

Vaccinations are now the best way to avoid contracting COVID. Information about vaccines in Lowell can be found at <https://www.lowellma.gov/1557/Lowell-Vaccine-Clinic>.

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 9, 2022
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. Every month, students with outstanding attendance are recognized in their class with a certificate presented by the Director, Betty McKiernan.

LIBRARY

The AAEC ESOL program started its lending library last year. Teachers have set aside class time so students can participate in this endeavor to improve their reading skills and to encourage parents to get their children to love reading.

There is a mobile library in the bistro and on the first floor with a variety of titles. There is something for everybody's taste and abilities.

Thank you Susan for leading this project.



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 the extra time whenever they borrow books from our library cart and fill out the forms the teachers give out.



Once a 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 Susan's Room on the first floor. There will be 1 opportunity every month to redeem your Reward Points.

A date will be posted on the newsletter every 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.

Olga, 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 (Low to Advanced level) Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am-11:30 am (Beginner level – No English Skills)	Monday and Wednesday, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm (Beginner to Advanced level)
In-person	CMAA 465 School Street Lowell, MA 01851	CMAA 465 School Street Lowell, MA 01851
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am -10:45 am (Beginner level – No English Skills) Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 11:00 am - 12:45 pm (Low level – limited English Skills)	Tuesday/Wednesday 5:00 pm -8:00 pm (Low level – Limited English Skills) Thursday/Friday 5:00 pm -8:00 pm (Beginner level – No English Skills)
	MORNING	EVENING
Remote	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am – 11:00 am (Intermediate level) Thursday/Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (Beginner to Advanced level)	Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm (Beginner to Advanced level)

HSE Class Offerings

	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 Friday 9:00 am – 10:45	Monday and Wednesday 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
	CTI 167 Dutton Street Lowell, MA 01852	
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:30 am – 12:30 am	
	MORNING	EVENING
Remote	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 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.



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

ESOL Staff		
Carrie	Room 11	ccarolan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Daisy	Room 10	dglavin@lowell.k12.ma.us
Liz	Room 2	enutile@lowell.k12.ma.us
Susan	Room 3	ssilk@lowell.k12.ma.us
Meg	Room 4	mchase@lowell.k12.ma.us
Debbie	Remote	dfrancoeur@lowell.k12.ma.us
Jen T	Pronunciation/Remote	jtighe@lowell.k12.ma.us
Ann	Pronunciation	adonovan@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
Kenneth	Civics	kmartin@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	rdawling@lowell.k12.ma.us
Allison	Room 6	amccarthy@lowell.k12.ma.us
Elaine	Room 6	emcgeown@lowell.k12.ma.us
Nancy	Room 7	nbernard@lowell.k12.ma.us
Diandra	Room 7	dsilk@lowell.k12.ma.us
Ester	Remote	emacdonald@lowell.k12.ma.us
Steve	Remote	sferri@lowell.k12.ma.us
Barbara	Remote	bgoodridge@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 also 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
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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
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Martha works with our HSE students. She is here Tuesdays and Thursdays 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
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Adriana—Student Services Coordinator	Room 3 – Back	agiraldo@lowell.k12.ma.us
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Adriana is our Student Services Coordinator. She works closely with our Director, staff, teachers, and student representatives to implement different programs related to students' goals and to coordinate special school activities. She can assist you in connecting with people at agencies in the community and give you information about cultural events and city services. You can find Adriana's office on the first floor in the back of Susan's room.



AAEC STAFF

Gladys —Secretary	Room 1 - Main Office	gmarrero@lowell.k12.ma.us
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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
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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 registrar Room 2 – Back jcarrasquillo@lowell.k12.ma.us
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Amanda and Jennifer are our Student Registrars for the ESOL program. Amanda also maintains student records and attendance for all our ESOL classes.

Sarah —HSE registrar Computer Lab swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us	Marcia —HSE registrar Computer Lab mburnsmittler@lowell.k12.ma.us
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Sarah and Marcia are our Registrars for the HSE Program. They oversee students admission, conduct orientation, and maintain and archive students records.

Barbara —HSE Attendance	Room 1—Main Office	bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us
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Barbara maintains student records and attendance for all HSE classes. She also teaches a Math class in the morning program.

Diandra —Student Follow-up	Room 7 – Back	dsilk@lowell.k12.ma.us
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Diandra teaches both in-person and remote classes in the morning and at night covering math, social studies, and writing. She also oversees use of the AZTEC program that helps students study and prepare for their tests.

Olga —Program Support	Room 3 – Back	ocasey@lowell.k12.ma.us
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Olga 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 Susan's room.

Carl —Custodian	Bob —Program Support
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Carl is our custodian. He keeps our building clean and running smoothly. His office is located on the Lower Level.

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

2022-23 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 – 2022-2023 Holidays and School Breaks

2022		
September	Tuesday, September 6, 2022	No School – Municipal Primary Election
October	Monday, October 10, 2022	No School – Indigenous Peoples’ Day
November	Tuesday, November 8, 2022	No School – Election Day
	Friday, November 11, 2022	No School – Veterans’ Day Observed
	Wednesday, November 23, 2022	Early Dismissal (10:45 am)
	Thursday, November 24, 2022	No School – Thanksgiving Day
	Friday, November 25, 2022	No School – Thanksgiving Recess
December	Friday, December 23, 2022	Holiday Vacation Begins at the Close of school
	Holiday Break	Saturday December 24, 2022 – Monday, January 2, 2023
2023		
January	Tuesday, January 3, 2023	School Re-open
	Monday, January 16, 2023	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February	Friday, February 17, 2023	Mid-Winter Vacation Begins at the Close of school
	Mid-Winter Break	Monday, February 21, 2023 – Friday, February 25, 2023
	Monday, February 27, 2023	School Re-open
April	Friday, April 7, 2023	No School – Good Friday
	Friday, April 14, 2023	Spring Vacation Begins at the Close of school
	Spring Break	Monday, April 17, 2023 – Friday, April 21, 2023
	Monday, April 24, 2023	School Re-open
May	Monday, May 29, 2023	No School – Memorial Day
June	Thursday, June 15, 2023	180 th School Day
	Monday, June 19, 2023	Juneteenth
	Friday, June 23, 2023	185 th School Day (Includes five(5) Snow Days)

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