

September 2024

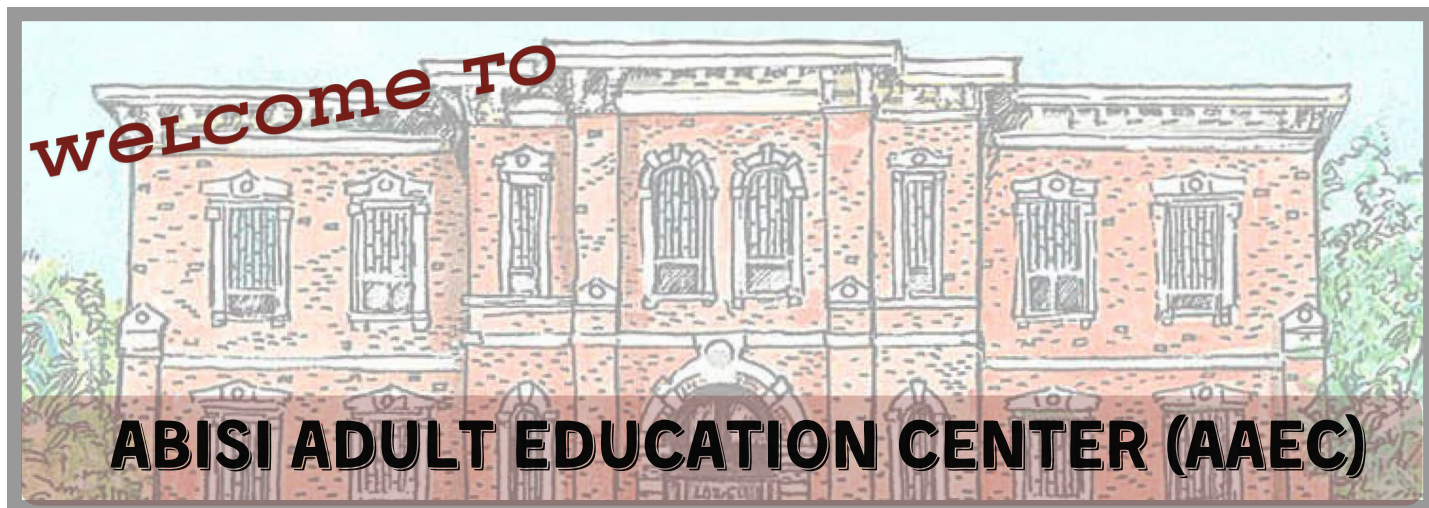


The Melting Pot Newsletter

A Publication for Students & Supporters

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

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 your 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.

Evenings

LHS

Moody School

CMAA

Remote

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...

Program Information

Program Offerings 3

Career & Educational Advisors 4

ESOL 6

HSE 7

School Year Calendar 9

THE AAEC WEBSITE

Our website,
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

HSE Classes: ✉ swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us

💡 In your message, remember to give:

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

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			
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		
REMOTE	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:00 am – 11:00 am Level: Beginner		Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm Level: Beginner to advanced level	
	Thursday/Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Level: Intermediate to advanced			

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		
	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm		
REMOTE	WednesdayThursday/Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm		Monday/Wednesday 6:00 pm - 8:30pm

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.



Sarah Crass

Office: LHS Room 3014 & Remote
✉ scrass@lowell.k12.ma.us

Sarah works with our evening ESOL students.

Sarah's schedule:

Mondays:

5:30 - 8:45pm (LHS)

Tuesdays:

5:30 - 8:45pm (Remote)



Stacy Marsden

Office: LHS Room 3014 & Remote
✉ amarsden@lowell.k12.ma.us

Stacy works with our HSE students.

Stacy's Schedule:

Mondays & Wednesdays (LHS)
&
by appointment (Remote)

Student Support Services

Mandi Lacroix

Student Services Coordinator
Office: Room 3 - Back
✉ alacroix@lowell.k12.ma.us

Fred McOsker

HSE Student Support Services
Office: Room 6 - Back
✉ 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: Day Site - Main Office
✉ 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: Day Site - Main Office
✉ 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.



Giovanna De Oliveira

Program Support

Office: Room 3 - Back
✉ gdeoliveira@lowell.k12.ma.us

Giovanna handles program support. She is responsible for Attendance Certificates and the Reward Program.





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."



Cell Phones and Children

We are glad you decided to join our evening classes!

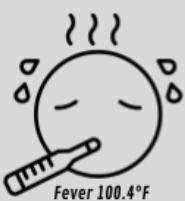
To help you focus, please turn off your cell phone or set it to silent and put it away during class.

No recording is allowed without permission, and texting or using social media is not allowed during class. If you need to take an emergency call, please step outside quietly.

Children are not allowed to attend class with you.

REMEMBER...

Stay Home If You Feel Sick...



Fever 100.4°F



Cough



Headache



Runny Nose

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

Let's keep our school safe and healthy!

ESOL Registration Staff

Amanda Pearson

ESOL Registrar

Office: Main Office

✉ apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us



AMANDA

Sochitra Ochan

ESOL Attendance

Office: Main Office

✉ sochan@lowell.k12.ma.us



SOCHITRA

Amanda and Sochitra handle ESOL registration. Amanda manages student records and class placements for all ESOL courses, while Sochitra oversees the ESOL attendance database.

HSE Registration Staff

Sarah Waterhouse

HSE Registrar & Attendance

Office: Computer Lab

✉ swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us

Marcia Burns-Mittler

HSE Testing - Remote

✉ mburnsmittler@lowell.k12.ma.us

Sarah and Marcia handle HSE Registration. Sarah also manages student records, placement, and testing for all our HSE students.



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



ESOL TESTING LHS ROOM 2004

ESOL PM Staff

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

Liz Nutile (Lead Teacher)	LHS Room 2014	enutile@lowell.k12.ma.us
Martha Rzepala (Lead Teacher)	LHS Room 2014	mrzepala@lowell.k12.ma.us
Meg Chase (Lead Teacher)	LHS Room 2014	margareтчase@lowell.k12.ma.us
Mary Fahey	LHS Room 2008	mfields@lowell.k12.ma.us
Zeb Khan	LHS Room 2018	zkhan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Kelli Weed	LHS Room 2009	kweed@lowell.k12.ma.us
Diane Leary	LHS Room 2010	dleary@lowell.k12.ma.us
Jen	LHS Room 2016	
Peter	LHS Room 2020	
Steve O'Connor	LHS Room 2027	soconnor@lowell.k12.ma.us
Andrea Weiss	Remote	aweiss@lowell.k12.ma.us
Erin Hillman	Remote	ehillman@lowell.k12.ma.us
Amy Maldonado	Remote	amaldonado@lowell.k12.ma.us
Mary Gail Jagers	Remote	mjagers@lowell.k12.ma.us
Nick Romanowsky	Remote	nromanowsky@lowell.k12.ma.us
Geoff McDonough	Remote	gmcdonough@lowell.k12.ma.us
Chris O'Keefe	Remote	cokeefe@lowell.k12.ma.us
Kosal Suon	CMAA	ksuon@lowell.k12.ma.us
Lori Conlon	Moody	lconlon@lowell.k12.ma.us
Sarah Donovan	Moody	sadonovan@lowell.k12.ma.us
Celeste Barter	Moody	cbarter@lowell.k12.ma.us
Steve Ibarguen	Moody	sibarguen@lowell.k12.ma.us

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 PM Staff

Maura McCabe (Lead Teacher)	LHS Room 3014	mmccabe@lowell.k12.ma.us
Christina Cronin (Lead Teacher)	LHS Room 3014	christinacronin@lowell.k12.ma.us
Holly McAnespie	LHS Room 3008	hmcanespie@lowell.k12.ma.us
Eileen Dufour	LHS Room 3009	edufour@lowell.k12.ma.us
Douangmany Warren	LHS Room 3010	dwarren@lowell.k12.ma.us
Linda McHugh	Remote	Llmchugh@lowell.k12.ma.us
Eileen Montbleu	Remote	emontbleu@lowell.k12.ma.us
Lauren Chenelle	Remote	lchenelle@lowell.k12.ma.us
Judy Moran	Remote	jmoran@lowell.k12.ma.us



Sarah Waterhouse

HSE Registrar, Attendance, & Testing

Office: Computer Lab

✉ swaterhouse@lowell.k12.ma.us

Sarah W. manages the student records, placement, attendance, and testing for all HSE classes.

HSE Registration & Testing



Lesley Byrne

HSE PM Testing

✉ lbyrne@lowell.k12.ma.us

Lesley helps with MAPT computer testing for our PM students.

Denise Beal

HSE Testing Coordinator
Office: Computer Lab

✉ dbeal@lowell.k12.ma.us

Office Hours:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
and Thursdays by appointment

Denise manages the HiSET® and GED® computer-based testing.

She is here to answer your questions about the exams. She can also help with registration and special accommodations.

Abisi Adult Education Test Center



Abisi Adult Education Center is an official Test Center for the HiSET and the 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 either paper or a 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.

Did you know?

Abisi Adult Education Center is not only for Lowell residents.

We also serve students from the Greater Lowell area:

Billerica, Chelmsford,
Dracut, Dunstable,
Tewksbury, Tyngsboro,
and Westford!



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

— Nelson Mandela

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, **there will be no AAEC morning classes** (evening classes will run as scheduled.)

Lowell Public Schools 2024-25 Holidays & School Breaks		
September	Monday, September 2, 2024	No School - Labor Day
	Tuesday, September 3, 2024	No School - State Primary Elections
October	Monday, October 14, 2024	No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
November	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
December	Friday, December 20, 2024	Winter Vacation Begins at the Close of School
	Holiday Break	Saturday, December 21 - Wednesday, January 1, 2025
January	Thursday, January 2, 2025	School Re-opens
	Monday, January 20, 2025	No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February	Friday, February 14, 2025	Mid-Winter Vacation Begins at the Close of School
	Mid-Winter Break	Monday, February 17 - Friday, February 21, 2025
	Monday, February 24, 2025	School Re-opens
April	Thursday, April 17, 2025	Spring Vacation Begins at the Close of School
	Spring Vacation Break	Monday, April 21- Friday, April 25, 2025
	Monday, April 28, 2025	School Re-opens
May	Monday, May 26, 2025	No School - Memorial Day
June	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.



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!

