Please provide a **brief overview** of the **consortium,** similar to an executive summary. What basic information should people know about the consortium? (This section should be 1-2 pages.)

1. What **area** does the consortium cover?
2. Describe the current levels of **staffing**, full-time versus part-time paid and non-paid employees and volunteers for the entire consortium.
3. Describe the ABE **students** the consortium typically serves, including culture, education, goals, and other important factors.

**Overview of Consortium**

The SE ABE Consortium is a combination of 18 active and 9 aligned school districts in southeastern Minnesota. It formed in 2011 as a result of the consolidation of 4 independent consortia (Pathways to Success, Faribault, Tri-Point and Winona). Details of participating districts are outlined in the Operating Agreement. Our area covers I-35 east to the Mississippi River and from Faribault south to the Iowa border with the exception of Rochester. Community Education programs represent their respective districts in the development, delivery and management of adult basic education programs. Each school district, through its Community Education program, operates and maintains an Adult Learning Center for the benefit of adult learners meeting state and federally defined criteria for adult basic education services.

The consortium is ruled by a governing board consisting of representatives from Albert Lea, Austin, Faribault, Pathways to Success, Owatonna, Triton and Winona. Owatonna serves as the fiscal host. The governing board adopts an operating agreement annually and meets regularly during the year as needed, but quarterly at a minimum. Operating documents and policies are shared electronically on a web based site for use by all partners. A meeting of all staff is held annually.

Each consortium partner is responsible for all program expenditures incurred at their site including all instructional costs. 10% of state and federal dollars owed to each consortium partner is withheld by the fiscal agent pending verification of expenditures equaling the annual total entitlement. Partners provide a full accounting of their funds by October 1st each year to the fiscal partner, which will result in being eligible for the final 10% payment as it is released by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Staffing for individual programs is based on funding available and student needs in each program. The consortium has approximately 56 staff of which 4 are full time. Staff are hired by individual member districts in alignment with their district guidelines. A staffing outline for the consortium is detailed in the staffing table attachment found in section three.

Students served by the consortium vary widely and are representative of the communities where programming is provided. English language learning, basic skills classes, collaboration with Workforce Centers, Pathway offerings and local colleges are examples of the offerings available to our students. One benefit of the consolidation of the districts into one consortium has been the ability to be more economical by mass purchasing and centralizing some services. It has also provided for supplemental programming resources to enable the expansion of programming that was not possible before due to funding caps. The student demographics can be found in demographics report.