



2017 Adult Education Framework Executive Summary

Having worked so hard over the past three years to make meaningful headway with the Legislature, Administration and Department of Finance (DOF) on the future of adult education, we were largely pleased with the Governor's FY 15-16 budget plan as a good starting point for reform of adult education that provided stability for K-12 adult education when we needed it most under the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG).

We continue to welcome implementation of AEBG and opportunity the overall restructuring of adult education in California offers to increase success for the state's most marginalized adult students. To do so we must protect and increase the access and service that characterizes community-based adult schools. The transformation is working where it is being done correctly, collaboratively and with an eye to protecting and enhancing the systems currently helping students succeed.

Going forward, however, we remain concerned about access to K-12 based adult education. K-12 adult schools' primary (and often only) funding comes from the AEBG. And while the AEBG provisions that provided funding to maintain capacity and access the last two years have been a good starting point, we are beginning to see erosion of that access as costs to run programs continue to increase and the number of adult students who need access to these programs also continues to increase. The capacity in place in K-12 adult schools needs to be protected and expanded to come even close to meeting the demand for services to help adults achieve literacy, basic skills, and secondary completion in order to successfully transition to higher education and/or careers with family-sustaining wages. In this regard, a number of issues remain in need of further work to ensure stability and access for adult learners going forward. The attached Framework proposes adjustments to the following components of the AEBG to help address these issues:

- Funding via implementation of an K-12 Adult Education COLA beginning in FY 17-18;
- Revision of "Grant" in "Adult Education Block Grant;"
- Encouragement of greater transparency in funding;
- SB 173 parameter recommendations for accountability, placement, other student outcomes, performance based funding, reciprocity, student identifiers, fees and more;
- Increased CDE responsibility for adult education in line with management of WIOA; and
- Creation of an AEBG Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Even as collaboration between the systems expands through regional consortium-building and AEBG, K-12 community-based adult schools still have as their core mission to serve those low basic skills adults who often get caught in the remediation of post-secondary education and supporting immigrant integration. Further, the structural and cultural differences between the two systems have become more evident through this planning process. It is critical that the strengths of each be leveraged in ways that support student learning outcomes and appropriate levels of support services. The adult learners that are best served by K12 adult schools must not be left out.

CCAEE and CAEAA believe that the adjustments and recommendations proposed in the attached framework will help to positively enhance and strengthen the stability of adult education in California and ensure successful outcomes for the students we serve.

If you have any questions regarding this framework and associated outstanding issues, please contact Dawn Koepke with McHugh, Koepke & Associates at (916) 930-1993. Thank you!