

Assembly Bill 86 Overview

Mt. San Antonio College Regional Consortium for Adult Education

Assembly Bill 86 charged the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) with jointly implementing an adult education planning process. The legislation appropriated \$25 million to distribute to regional consortia to develop plans with the shared goal of better serving the educational needs of California's adult learners. The following five areas are to be addressed in the plan:

- Elementary and secondary basic skills, including classes required for a high school diploma;
- Classes and courses for immigrants in English as a second language, citizenship, and workforce preparations;
- Education programs for adults with disabilities;
- Short-term career technical education programs with high employment potential; and
- Programs for apprentices.

What comprises a consortium?

A **consortium** consists of at least one school district and at least one community college district within the geographical boundaries of the community college district.

A **region** is defined as the geographical boundaries of a community college district.

A **member** is defined as a public school district or a community college within the geographical boundaries of the designated region.

A **partner** is defined by the local consortium's membership.

The **fiscal agent** is identified by agreement of the consortia members. The fiscal agent has the role of the "banker" and is responsible for distributing the funds and required expenditure reports.

What must consortia plans include?

- Evaluation of level and types and needs of adult education programs within the region and plans to address gaps.
- Plans to integrate programs to create seamless transition for students into postsecondary education or the workforce.
- Plans to employ approaches to accelerate a student's progress toward academic or career goal.
- Plans to collaborate with partners on the provision of ongoing professional development for faculty and other staff.
- Plans to leverage existing regional structures, including local workforce investment areas.

What will happen after the plans are submitted to the Legislature and the Governor?

It is the intent of the Legislature to work toward developing common policies related to adult education affecting adult schools at local educational agencies and community colleges, including policies on fees and funding levels. It is the intent of the Legislature to provide additional funding in the 2015-16 fiscal year to the regional consortia to expand and improve the provision of adult education.

Excerpts in this section are from the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Adult Education Regional Planning Process report for 2013-2014. Find this report, and many other AB86 resources, at <http://ab86.cccco.edu>.

AB86 Executive Summary

The Mt. San Antonio College Regional Consortium for Adult Education

The Mt. SAC Regional Consortium is comprised of:

Baldwin Park Unified School District
Bassett Unified School District
Bonita Unified School District
Charter Oak & Covina-Valley Unified School Districts (Tri-Community)
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District
Mt. San Antonio College (fiscal agent)
Pomona Unified School District
Rowland Unified School District
Walnut Valley Unified School District

Findings from the Regional Comprehensive Plan Process

Member sites within the consortium offer a wide variety of courses within each of the program areas. Faculty, counselors, staff, and administrators work diligently to provide students with high quality instruction, curriculum, counseling, and student services. Goals of adult education in the region include ensuring positive student outcomes and providing students with opportunities to advance along college and career pathways.

In the process of developing the regional plan, stakeholders found that, while programming is of high quality throughout the region, there is a lack of alignment across member sites and the amount of course offerings has decreased substantially since the recession. These gaps, along with others, impact student access and the consortium is poised to leverage existing resources to augment course offerings, grow programs that target employment projections, and enhance alignment and transition within and between programs in the region.

Key aspects of the Consortium Plan include:

- **Program Growth:** Strategically offering additional sections of existing courses and expanding program breadth through new course offerings
- **College and Career Pathways:** Creating transitional courses using contextualized instructional approaches within and between program areas to assist with program readiness as well as college and career pathways
- **Course Affordability:** Reducing costs to students for fee-based courses
- **Expanded Course Schedules:** Broadening course scheduling to meet community needs (including evenings and weekends)
- **Online and Distance Learning:** Building technological infrastructure and developing curriculum and trainings
- **Improved Student Services:** For all students and particularly those from disproportionately impacted populations (e.g. English Language Learners and students with disabilities) and students with barriers to entry related to transportation and/or childcare needs.

Executing this ambitious plan will require support from community partners as well as additional resources that will be provided largely through state funding. Resources needed may include faculty, counselors, staff, partners, technology, professional development, and facilities. Effectiveness of the plan will be measured by data collection and analysis coordinated by program area task groups and ad hoc groups that include partners. Centralized operations will also be established to facilitate student access and promote pathways and transition throughout the region.

AB86 Consortium Partners

The Mt. San Antonio College Regional Consortium for Adult Education

A partner is any organization that supports adult education in the community and that has been invited to participate by the consortium members. Partners can collaborate with members in a variety of ways. Some examples of partnerships in the region include:

- Agencies that refer students to consortium member programs and/or services or promote transition into consortium-based programs (e.g. ROPs)
- Governmental agencies that regulate consortium-based programs and/or services
- Members of Advisory Committees
- Externship/Internship/Apprenticeship sites and potential employers that will collaborate with members to create pathways to work
- Sites where consortium member courses are offered or were previously offered and could be reinstated
- Professional associations that assist students with career development
- Higher education institutions where pathways to college and articulation agreements can be fostered

Your agency, group, or business has been invited to join this consortium as a partner because we believe that ongoing collaboration with your business/agency will strengthen the region.

As we create plans for the regional consortium we are looking for businesses and agencies that want to develop strategies alongside consortium members to strengthen the region and the local workforce. You have been invited to join us because we believe that ongoing collaboration with your business or agency would further these goals. We hope that you will take an active role in the consortium and work alongside members to support adult learning and improve pathways to college and career.

If you have any questions regarding the Mt. SAC Regional Consortium for Adult Education contact:

Wanda Pyle, Ed.D.
AB86 Project Facilitator
drwandapyle@gmail.com

Additional AB86 Resources:

Regional Consortium website
CDE & CCCC AB86 website

<https://sites.google.com/site/mtsacrae/>
<http://ab86.cccco.edu>