

ADULT EDUCATION

The administration released their much-anticipated trailer bill language for implementation of the adult education consortiums. The language is the administration's proposal for implementation of their adult education block grant which includes proposals on how much funding will be distributed to each consortium and how those consortiums will distribute the funding amongst the participants. The proposal contains the following provisions:

1. The Chancellor and the Superintendent, with the concurrence of the Executive Director of the State Board of Education will divide the state into adult education regions. Until this is completed, the boundaries established via the AB 86 process will serve as the various regions.
2. The Chancellor and Superintendent would approve one adult education consortium for each region.
3. For the first year, the consortium would use the regional plan developed through the AB 86 process. In the ensuing years, the plan would be developed on an annual basis to include at least all of the following:
 - a. Evaluation of the adult education needs in the area
 - b. Evaluation of current levels and types of adult education services in the region
 - c. Evaluation of funds available to members of the consortium and other providers outside of the block grant
 - d. Actions to address the needs and improve the effectiveness of the programs.
 - e. Actions to better integrate services and description of alignment of services with other education and regional workforce plans
4. The funding would go out via a block grant without specific funding levels per student. No more than 5% could be used for administration.
5. The consortium would establish an allocation board that is authorized to approve an allocation schedule and consists of:
 - a. A community college member
 - b. A K-12 representative
 - c. An adult education provider that is not a community college or K-12 district
 - d. An official of a local workforce development board
 - e. An official of an employment services office
 - f. An official of a county probation department in the region
 - g. A member of the public
6. The Chancellor and the Superintendent are to certify the amount spent by school districts and county offices of education as the maintenance of effort for K-12 schools. As a condition of receiving those funds, the school must be a part of a consortium. The remaining funds (after the allocation of the MOE) would be allocated using a schedule approved by the chancellor and the superintendent based on each region's share of the statewide need for adult education. The chancellor and superintendent would consider measures related to population, employment, immigration, educational attainment and adult literacy.
7. In the second year of the program and each succeeding year, funding would be allocated to consortiums based on the following:
 - a. Amount apportioned in the prior year
 - b. That region's share of the statewide need for adult education
 - c. The effectiveness of the consortium in meeting the adult education needs of its region.

A couple questions:

1. Will the MOE count as need?
2. How will the formula be developed?
3. Can a formula be developed and money put out in timely manner?