

Adult Education - Governor's January 2015 Proposal

Summary:

In 2013, the Budget Act provided \$25 million for planning grants to consortia of community college and K-12 school districts in 70 regions. After nearly two years of work and to address the upcoming end of K-12 adult schools Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement, Governor Brown has proposed an Adult Education Block Grant of \$500 million.

Of particular note and consideration for community colleges, the proposal incorporates the involvement of the executive director of the State Board of Education in the state-level approval process. The plan proposes an evaluation of all funds available to the members of the consortium and other adult education providers in the region, including those provided by the Adult Education Block Grant and other sources. The proposed plan sets up the structure of regional consortia fiscal allocation committees that would be authorized to approve an allocation schedule. Lastly, the proposal includes minimum measures to determine "need".

Adult Education Block Grant

- 2015-16 Budget Appropriation: \$500 million Adult Education Block Grant
 - Linked to the California Workforce Chapter
 - Courses that are funded: Elementary & secondary basic skills, Classes & courses in citizenship and ELS, Education for adults with disabilities, Short-term CTE with high employment potential, Apprenticeship
 - Align programs with economic needs in each region, and provide clear pathways to in-demand jobs determined by regional labor market info.
- Consortia Role
 - Each consortium will designate an allocation board responsible for allocating block grant funds.
 - Each Fiscal Allocation Committee will consist of 7 members:
 1. CCC
 2. K-12 districts
 3. Other A.E. providers
 4. Local workforce investment boards
 5. County DSS
 6. Correctional rehab programs
 7. One public member with relevant experience
 - Fiscal Allocation Committee Role
 - Approve an allocation schedule
 - 2015-16: based on the consortium plans
 - 2016-17 and beyond: plans based on annual plan that includes:
 - An evaluation of adult education needs in the region
 - Evaluation of current services
 - Evaluation of other funds in the region for this purpose

- Each allocation committee will need to coordinate with regional partners to ensure all funding streams are considered (federal funds, WIA funds, CCC and K-12 funds)
 - Each allocation committee will determine how to allocate block grant funds for direct instruction, support services, administration of its consortium (capped at 5%)
 - Each consortium will report annually to the CCCCCO and SSPI on progress towards fulfilling its adult education plan using all resources available.
 - Consortium Governance Structure Approved by Chancellor's Office, Superintendent, in concurrence of executive director of the State Board of Education.
- State Level Responsibility
- CCCCCO and CDE SPI, with "concurrence" with the executive director of the State Board of Education, will jointly approve allocation of funds, with emphasis on providing funding to those regions with the greatest adult education needs.
 - First year: funding will be provided directly to K-12 school districts in the amount of the K-12 districts MOE for adult education as jointly determined by the CCCCCO and the SSPI.

Summary – AB 86 Adult Education Regional Planning Report:

Assembly Bill 86, Section 76, Article 3 (AB 86) charged the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office with jointly implementing a planning process to integrate and improve adult education. On March 4, the AB 86 Working Group released a report offering the following recommendations:

1. Increase service levels to meet the demand for adult education in the state of California. Increase capacity by hiring more teachers and counselors, restore and expand adult education program offerings across the state, and reinstate adequate dedicated funding for adult education programs.
2. Improve programming to better prepare students for post-secondary education and/or transition to workforce. Curricula must be aligned, and professional development for faculty and staff should be enhanced.
3. Provide adequate academic, social, and financial supports for all students to lower barriers to enrollment and promote student success.
4. Align assessments for placement between the K-12 Adult and community college providers to reduce barriers to student progress toward their educational and career goals. Currently, the community colleges and K-12 Adult systems employ different assessment instruments and policies. The CDE contracts to offer the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) assessment. A Common Assessment Initiative (CAI) is underway in the community colleges.
5. Develop a common accountability approach to documenting and evaluating student progress between the K-12 Adult and community college systems. Create a shared data protocols capable of monitoring inputs and outputs.
6. Maintain and extend structures for ongoing regional coordination among adult schools, community colleges, and community partners.