

CCAEE & CAEAA K–12 Adult Education 2021 Legislative & Budget Priorities & Talking Points “Easy Read”

For over five years, K–12 Adult Schools and community colleges have been part of local consortium as a condition for receiving State funds to provide education and training to Adult Learners in their communities. At the State level, the consortia model was designed to increase collaboration between the two systems and provide greater access to higher education and career pathways.

There have been great strides in this work and despite inherent challenges of bringing together two separate and distinct statewide systems—each with their own policies and processes—Adult Learners have benefited. However, there are some obstacles that have emerged and persisted.

Key Points about Adult Education

- Most of the Adult Education students are identified as having multiple barriers to success making them one of the most, if not the most, difficult to serve populations.
- Adult Education serves about 10% of the students funded under Prop 98.
- State funding for Adult Education is less than 1% (.7%) of the Prop 98 guarantee.
- K–12 Adult Schools provide broad access to needed services through a network of hundreds of locations at local elementary, middle-school, high-school, and adult school campuses, as well as partner community-based organizations (CBOs).

ASK #1 – Maintain Current CAEP to match K–12 Parent Districts

- The 2021-22 January proposal includes a 3.81% COLA for LCFF for K–12 districts. However, those K–12 districts will only receive a 1.5% COLA for their Adult Education Program.
- Being part of K–12 districts, Adult Schools are subject to same bargaining agreements which include salary negotiations influenced by COLAs.
- The lower COLA for Adult Education can result in Adult Schools having to make cuts to programs in order to cover any increased salary increases beyond the 1.5%.

ASK – Provide Adult Education the same 3.81% COLA as their K–12 districts.

ASK #2 – Address Unfettered Carryover

- Some consortia member agencies continue to annually carry over significant amounts of their annual allocation. Some carry more than 100%, while other agencies within the consortia expend their annual allocations to address the need.
- These carry over dollars directly correlate to a loss of highly needed services that could have been provided to Adult Education students.
- The California Adult Education Program (CAEP) is an on-going funding source with

a standalone allocation in the state budget each year to cover Adult Education in the K-12 Adult School and Community College systems.

- Current state guidance (not law) gives a three-year spending window for each year of funding and funded agencies must certify fiscal year close out six months prior to the end of the three- year spending window.
- Although there can be acceptable reasons for significant carryover these reasons should be known to all consortium members and agreed upon.
- We want to ensure that the funding allocated for high need students in a given year is expended in that year, but when it's not spent then there should be a good reason why.

***ASK** – The Legislature should establish clear criteria, accountability, and a maximum threshold (proposed at 15%) for consortia members to carryover from year to year so as to ensure the maximum amount is used to support growing student needs in the budget year, allowing for exceptions as outlined and defined by consortia plans.*

ASK #3 – Address Funding Distribution & Timing

- Funding for K-12 agencies continues to arrive 5-6 months late each year which causes unnecessary pressures on K-12 school districts in managing available cash.
- The process for distributing funds is a complicated one that starts with the Chancellor's Office and involves many people and many points of action. Just one person in charge of an action can delay the process weeks.

***ASK** – In accordance with funding decisions made by consortia in their plans, establish a line item (out of the total CAEP annual allocation) in the CDE budget to distribute Adult School funding directly to adult schools as provided in the CAEP regional plans.*

ASK #4 – Update K-12 Adult Education Statutes to Align with the Current Adult Education Program

- K-12 Adult Education has changed significantly since its inception, but the Education Code has not been updated to reflect the current system and delivery of services in conjunction with its partners.

***ASK** – Update and align Education Code for K-12 Adult Schools to better reflect the current system and program delivery under the CA Adult Education Program (CAEP).*

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