

CCAIE & CAEAA Field Update

August 2023

Adult Education Legislative & Budget Update

With the Legislature reconvening for its final push to the end of the 2023 legislative session, things are heating up in the Legislature with the fate of almost two thousand bills yet to be decided. Notably, the Legislature reconvened from their summer recess on August 14th and will work feverishly for the next month leading up to the end of session on September 14th to take action on the remaining bills pending in both houses. At this stage, many bills are on hold in the powerful Appropriations Committees in both houses pending review of their fiscal impacts and any potential to mitigate those costs to advance them to the Governor's desk for consideration. The Appropriations Committees are expected to take up their Suspense Files, where the bills are on hold for fiscal review, at the end of this month. Those bills that are voted off the Suspense File and to the Senate and Assembly Floors will then have to receive approval from the full body in both houses in order to advance to the Governor's desk for his consideration and action by October 14th.

The following provides a snapshot of some of the key bills CCAIE and CAEAA have been engaged in discussions regarding over the past few months.

SB 447 (Atkins) – GO-Biz

Would lift California's travel ban to states with anti-LGBTQ+ laws and establishes at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) the Building and Reinforcing Inclusive, Diverse, Gender-Supportive Equity Project (BRIDGE Project) to promote social equity, civil rights, and antidiscrimination through education, marketing, and advertising campaigns. The bill allows media campaigns to be on a national scale and allows campaigns to target states with anti-LGBTQ+ laws. This bill specifies GO-Biz is to create a BRIDGE Project fund where money is to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to support the BRIDGE Project. GO-Biz is to establish a process to receive donations to the fund. In addition, the bill specifies GO-Biz may contract with a nonprofit agency that is the "leading producer of public service advertisements and is able to use the services of volunteer advertising agencies and donated media to conduct the marketing activities." The bill also requires GO-Biz to convene an advisory committee of no more than ten members to advise GO-Biz on BRIDGE Project media campaigns. Lastly, the bill establishes certain requirements for media campaigns funded by the project.

- Position: CCAIE & CAEAA SUPPORT
 - As the state with the largest and most prominent adult education program, California has the opportunity to provide important guidance, support, and advocacy across the country in support of adult education programs that often are focused on those in need of English as a Second Language (ESL) programming, citizenship classes in order to obtain residency, and those who are the most marginalized in our communities in need of basic skills and short-term career training opportunities. Further, adult education programs in California are offered on K12 campuses that provide for stronger access, comfort, and growth for immigrant and refugee

populations who may find larger college-type campuses more intimidating and threatening in terms of residency status issues. Unfortunately, however, California's restrictions on travel to discriminatory states has left California's Adult Education Program leaders and adult educators out of important dialogue, professional development opportunities and federal advocacy. CCAE and CAEAA strongly support rescinding the travel restrictions and focusing on development of a robust civil rights and antidiscrimination campaign to ensure California's values and priorities for protecting and serving the most marginalized and underrepresented in our communities are heard in those states.

- Status: Pending on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File
- [Bill Text - SB-447 GO-Biz. \(ca.gov\)](#)

AB 377 (Muratsuchi) – CTE Incentive Grant Program: Strong Workforce Program

- Would have required the consolidation of specified K-12 career technical education (CTE) programs; increased ongoing funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant program (CTEIG) administered by the California Department of Education (CDE); required specified CTE staffing at the state and regional level to support local CTE programs and pathways; and deleted authorization for the K-12 Strong Workforce Program (SWP) administered by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO). Would also require the CDE to establish a stakeholder workgroup to consider improvements to the CTEIG program.
 - Unfortunately, amid significant Department of Finance (DOF) opposition, the author will be amending AB 377 to remove the proposal to consolidate the K-12 SWP and the CTEIG program. The remaining language within the bill would continue to establish the workgroup to study ways to improve the CTEIG program, which the author and Education Committees believe would have real value in ongoing support for K-12 CTE.
- Position: Support
 - CCAE & CAEAA requested an amendment to have adult schools included as part of the stakeholder workgroup's membership that is further refined in Section 53076(b)(2) of the bill. As shared with the author's office, adult schools are part of K12 school districts and while they serve students 18 years and older in things like CTE programs, they receive many of the K12 students once they graduate or even in dual enrollment situations once they are 18. Further, adult schools also share the same CTE facilities and equipment and their costs in some cases. So, in order to coordinate services to provide better continuity of education for students the California Council for Adult Education (CCAЕ) and California Adult Education Administrators Association (CAEAA) have requested an adult school representative be included on the stakeholder workgroup. The amendment was accepted and the bill is now in print with our requested amendment.
- Status: Pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee

- [Bill Text - AB-377 Career technical education: California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Strong Workforce Program.](#)

AB 897 (McCarty) – Certificated School Employees: Probationary Status & Service Credit

- Requires an employer of an adult education teacher to grant the teacher permanent employee status after a two-year probationary period. Additionally, it requires an employer of a certificated school employee working more than 60% of a full time position, and who has served for at least 75% of the number of days of their assignment, to consider the employee as having served a complete school year for purposes of granting permanent status as well as requires an LEA to notify an employee hired using categorical state funding of the following information at the time of hire: the expected end date of employment, the source of funding, and the nature of the categorically funded program or project.
- Position: CCAE & CAEAA SUPPORT
- Status: Pending on the Suspense File in the Senate Appropriations Committee
- [Bill Text - AB-897 Certificated school employees: probationary employees: service credit.](#)

ACR 31 (Pacheco) – Adult Education Week

- Proclaims the week of March 19, 2023, to March 25, 2023, inclusive, as Adult Education Week, and would honor the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs statewide for their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments.
- Position: SUPPORT / Sponsor
- Status: Chaptered and Filed with the Secretary of State on May 3, 2023
- [Bill Text - ACR-31 Adult Education Week.](#)
- **Of note, the 2024 Adult Education Week Resolution will be introduced when the Legislature reconvenes next year. We will be sure to share the new resolution upon its introduction in 2024.

In terms of the FY 23-24 budget, you'll recall the Governor's May Revision pegged the deficit at \$31.5 billion — up from the initial estimate of \$22.5 billion in January. That said, the LAO estimated the deficit to be higher than the Newsom Administration's projection to the tune of \$34.5 billion. Under their estimates, the state faces operating deficits throughout the next few budget cycles and to eliminate the operating deficit anticipated for FY 24-25, for example, the LAO estimated revenues would need to be roughly \$30 billion higher than their current forecast which is very unlikely. In that regard, the LAO argued that if the Legislature adopted the Governor's May Revision proposals, the state will more than likely face more budget problems over the next few years. This is in part because the FY 21-22 and 22-23 budgets committed to future one-time and temporary spending in FY 2023-24 and beyond that appear to no longer be affordable despite the May Revision's spending reductions. The LAO recommended an additional \$7 billion in reductions and out-year one-time and temporary spending be

eliminated entirely. Ultimately, however, the Legislature and Administration stuck to a deficit projection closer to what the Administration estimated and is leaving room for further adjustments in the coming budget cycle, as may be needed.

Specific to adult education, you'll recall the Governor proposed increasing the COLA for various programs, including adult education, to 8.22% for FY 23-24 consistent with school districts in his May Revise. Fortunately, the significant COLA remained at that level in the final budget despite the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst criticizing the May Revision relying on nearly \$2.8 billion in one-time funds to cover the 8.22% COLA for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and various programs like adult education. The LAO argued the approach creates an ongoing deficit because the costs of the COLA continue but the one-time funding does not. Nevertheless, the 8.22% was retained for the FY 23-24 year.

In terms of next steps, CCAE and CAEAA have already begun the planning process to determine our legislative and budget priorities for the next few years. Among the topics being discussed in detail include ongoing discussions regarding possible reforms to the Adult Education Program, funding, teacher credentialing, and more. We look forward to further discussion with the field on these items in the coming months.

In the meantime, to review the final FY 23-24 budget and its outcomes, please see [Budget Summary \(ca.gov\)](#).