



2022 Legislative & Budget Priorities & Talking Points

For over six years, K–12 Adult Schools and community colleges have been part of local consortia 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% (0.7%) of the Prop 98 guarantee.
- K-12 Adult Schools provide broad access to the needed services through a network of hundreds of locations located at local elementary, middle-school, high-school, and adult school campuses, as well as partner community-based organizations (CBOs).

ASK #1 – SUPPORT Alignment of COLA to match K-12 Parent Districts

- The 2022-23 January proposal includes a 5.83% COLA for Adult Education, aligned to the COLA under LCFF for K-12 districts, which we SUPPORT!
- Being part of K-12 districts, Adult Schools are subject to same bargaining agreements which include salary negotiations influenced by COLAs.
- It is critical to maintain an aligned COLA for Adult Education to avoid Adult Schools having to make cuts to programs in order to cover any increased salary increases.
- ***ASK – SUPPORT the Governor’s proposed COLA aligned to the K-12 districts.***

ASK #2 – SUPPORT Healthcare Vocational Education Funding via Adult Education

- Adult Education is the backbone of short-term vocational education for the healthcare field, offering numerous programs and certificates to support students with a career path into the health care field. Such programs and certificates include Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Certified Nurse Assistant, and Phlebotomist.
- We strongly support the Governor’s Budget proposal to provide \$130M over three years to support expansion of vocational education for the healthcare workforce.
- ***ASK – SUPPORT the Governor’s proposed Healthcare Vocational Education funding.***

ASK #3 – Provide Adult Education Teachers Access to Proposed Fee Waivers for Credentialing & Exams

- Adult Education teachers are required to have a teaching credential, the process and cost of which can be a burden and barrier to entry.
- The Governor's budget includes fee waivers for exam fees (\$24M) and credentialing fees (\$12M).
- **ASK – Provide access to Adult Education teachers for exam and credentialing fee waivers via the budget proposals.**

ASK #4 – Address Unfettered Carryover. SUPPORT AB 1491 (McCarty)

- Some consortia member agencies continue to annually carry over significant amounts of their annual allocation, some more than 100%, while other agencies within the consortia expend their annual allocations to address the need.
- These carry over amounts 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 each year is expended in that year but when it's not spent then there should be a good reason why.
- **ASK – SUPPORT AB 1491 (McCarty) (passed the Assembly unanimously and is in the Senate) to 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.**

For more information, please contact Dawn Koepke with McHugh Koepke & Associates at (916) 606- 5309 or dkoepke@mchughgr.com. Thank you!