

CCAEE / CAEAA Adult Education Funding Model Workgroup - August 2023 Update

This is an update on the work being done by a joint team of CCAEE and California Adult Education Administrators Association (CAEAA) leadership in the area of Legislative Advocacy. The field team, listed below, met in early July to address the [Legislative Analyst's Office \(LAO\) Report titled "Redesigning California's Adult Education Funding Model."](#) In March 2023, CCAEE and CAEAA released a joint [Position Statement](#) in response to the LAO Report. Our aim now is to develop specific proposals for addressing key shortcomings of the current CAEP funding model.

This team includes a broad representation of experienced Adult Education practitioners on the team that included representatives from consortium level, large schools, small schools, urban schools, and rural schools.

Steve Curiel - Huntington Beach Adult School
Beth Cutter – Castro Valley Adult and Career Education
Dawn Koepke – McHugh Koepke Padron Government Relations
Adele McClain – Apple Valley Adult School
Jaemi Naish - Tamalpais Adult School
Sonya Ramirez – LA Unified School District
Thomas Reid – Berkeley Adult School
Carlos Rodriguez – LA Unified School District
Thoibi N. Rublaitus – Corona Norco Adult School
Adriana Sánchez-Aldana – California Council for Adult Education
Grace Sauser – Davis Adult School
Angela Taylor – San Mateo Adult School
John Werner – Sequoias Adult Education Consortium

Our July work session had four components.

1. Review what the LAO report says and does not say.
2. Get an update and understand the current Adult Education budget and political environment.
3. Identify and prioritize those issues related to funding that would increase the effectiveness of CAEP.
4. Develop guiding principles for a funding model that would address the identified issues.

It became clear that there are a number of priorities in regard to budget and policy, completely unrelated to Adult Education, that are going to consume much of the attention of our legislators and Governor in the coming months. This affords us time to develop a well thought out proposal that we will introduce at the beginning of the next two year legislative cycle, in fall 2024.

The group then evaluated each and all of the LAO report critiques about the current funding model and considered any other issues that are problematic and that we might want to address. We recognize that the more any funding proposal refers back to and addresses the LAO report concerns, the better it will be received by policy makers. We discussed and ranked the critiques based on those

the group felt most needed to be addressed in any funding formula. The resulting list is the group's ranked priority issues to be addressed in any new funding model:

1. CAEP Funding Model Is Disconnected From Student Demand.
2. Weak Incentives Are in Place to Improve Student Outcomes.
3. Funding Model Lacks Fiscal Incentive to Provide Access.
4. No Funding Is Provided Specifically for Consortium-Level Activities.

After ranking these critiques, the group did have a short discussion about some parameters for a funding formula proposal. The plan is to add to these parameters as needed and flesh them out with more detail.

- Parity with the college non-credit programs
- Dedicated and clearly identified funding stream for K12-Adult
- Transition period of several years from current funding model to a new one
- Any funding reductions for consortia or agencies should be phased in gradually over a reasonable period of time

The work done to this point gives us, and we hope the field, a good understanding of where we stand right now in terms of a funding formula. To reiterate, barring any unilateral decisions from State policymakers, we are a few years away from any potential changes to Adult Education funding. Thanks to the work of Dawn Koepke and our legislative advocacy team, we feel we have a good working relationship with policy makers and they are willing to listen. We just need to agree as a field on what to say.

As the work on this proposal continues, we encourage you to reach out to those working in this group and your CCAE Section Legislative Chairs, to share your thoughts and concerns around funding. We encourage you to reread the report as it does provide a fairly accurate summary of Adult Education funding, both historically and present. And we ask that you continue your efforts with your local representatives to share about the great things you are doing at your school.

Gale Ard, South Coast Section
Dana Carter, Southern Section
Beth Cutter, State Chair
Karyn Ruiz, Central Section
Suzanne Murphy, Bay Section
Aaron Saenz, LA Metro Section
Nakisha Woods, Northern Section

This is a positive and exciting time in Adult Education. This process of envisioning new funding models will eventually lead us to new policy — new policy that will support us in providing even better service to the adult learners in our communities.

For additional information, contact:

- Beth Cutter, CCAE State Legislative Chair; <https://www.ccaestate.org/contact.html>
- Angela Taylor, CAEAA Vice President/Legislation; <https://www.caeaa.org/contactus.html>