



November 16, 2022

Honorable Kevin McCarty  
Chair  
Assembly Subcommittee on Education

Honorable John Laird  
Chair  
Senate Subcommittee on Education

Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
Chair  
Assembly Education Committee

Honorable Connie Leyva  
Chair  
Senate Education Committee

Honorable Jose Medina  
Chair  
Assembly Higher Education Committee

Mr. Chris Ferguson  
Program Budget Manager, Education  
Department of Finance

Mr. Paul Steenhausen  
Legislative Analysts Office

**RE: CDE & Chancellor's Office Adult Education Program Coordination - Ongoing Concerns**

On behalf of the California Council for Adult Education (CCAE) and California Adult Education Administrators Association (CAEAA), we respectfully submit this follow-up letter regarding our previous letter submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE) and Chancellor's Office on August 1, 2022. The August letter, as you may recall, outlined significant concern regarding the lack of coordination and collaboration between the two agencies.

Regrettably, we wish to share with you our disappointment in what we see to be an ongoing deteriorating situation in the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) leadership structure established in Fiscal Year 2014-15. Since sharing the August 1, 2022 letter we have had a number of productive conversations with the CDE but have yet to receive a response from the Chancellor's Office.

Furthermore, the Chancellor's Office has continued to make unilateral decisions that further demonstrate its disinterest in operating in a collaborative manner as mandated by Education Code. For example, soon after sharing our concerns of unilateral decisions by the Chancellor's Office, the Chancellor's Office unilaterally put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to fund a separate, standalone technical assistance provider solely for non-credit college programs paid for with CAEP funding. When questioning such a move, our concern was unfairly characterized as combative and without merit.

Unfortunately, we have lost confidence that the current leadership at the Chancellor's Office desires to work collaboratively and, importantly, as equal partners with the CDE and accept input from the field to provide unified and relevant guidance and technical assistance to adult education consortia. In order to move forward without further deteriorating consortia infrastructure we will be proposing the following for legislative and Administration consideration in 2023:

- Bifurcation of the current CAEP budget allocations, establishing a budget line item in the CDE budget equal to the total K12 agency funding allocations;
- Maintenance and strengthening of the current consortia level governance structures and required planning and reporting processes; and
- Bifurcation of the remaining and any additional CAEP Technical Assistance and Data and Accountability funding in proportion to the total CAEP allocations for K12 Adult Schools vs the Chancellor's Office.

We feel that these steps are necessary and justifiable in order to avoid jeopardizing the significantly larger K12 portion of CAEP funding and the respective services provided to students. Additionally, such a change would establish a primacy of funding under CDE and create a more balanced accountability structure overall between CDE and Chancellor's Office. To be clear, our goal is to preserve the collaborative spirit at the local level that serves students well by ensuring that resources at the state level flow unhindered to consortia, as intended.

We appreciate your consideration of these growing concerns and look forward to your response. We would welcome the opportunity to schedule time with you to further discuss these concerns, steps to address them, and how the two systems move forward in the best interest of the students we serve. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact Dawn Koepke with McHugh Koepke & Associates at [dkoepke@mchughgr.com](mailto:dkoepke@mchughgr.com) or (916) 606-5309. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sonya Ramirez  
President  
CCAЕ



John Werner  
President  
CAЕAA

Cc: Honorable Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education  
Honorable Daisy Gonzales, Interim Chancellor, California Community College Chancellor's Office  
Members, California Community Colleges Board of Governors  
Association of Community & Continuing Education (ACCE)  
Members, CCAЕ  
Members, CAЕAA