



May 9, 2024

Ben Chida  
Chief Cabinet Secretary  
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Michael Wiafe  
Assistant Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

**RE: Master Plan for Career Education**

On behalf of the California Council for Adult Education (CCAE) and California Adult Education Administrators Association (CAEAA), we appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments and recommendations regarding the development of the Governor's Master Plan for Career Education. The development of the Master Plan for Career Education in California presents a tremendous opportunity to positively impact the lives and outcomes for countless families. This work aligns well with the mission of K12 Adult Education providers, as represented by CC AE and CAEAA. Local Adult Schools, which are run through K12 school districts, serve the traditionally disadvantaged. Our programs are uniquely tailored to immigrants, those with gaps in their basic skills or lacking a high school diploma, justice-involved community members, and people with disabilities.

A large percentage of Adult Schools provide broad-based skill development courses that support employability and basic workforce skills, such as computer literacy and language skills. Over 90 Adult Schools in California have over 310 unique programs specifically tailored to accelerate English language learning for immigrants while simultaneously gaining career training<sup>1</sup>.

Adult Schools have a vast array of highly successful short term career training programs that emphasize jobs that provide a living wage. Indeed, during the 2022-2023 school year Adult Schools served over 135,000 Californians in career training programs. Because of the demographics of the adults served at Adult Schools, many of them are entering their first job on a career pathway that leads to life changing wages for them and their families. Many Adult School programs provide additional supports that are individualized to student needs, such as career training programs with embedded English or Math supports, individual tutoring, and career exploration services. In 2022-2023 alone, over 208,000 Adult School students utilized supportive services and over 356,000 utilized transition services to college or career.

For your consideration, we would like to offer four specific recommendations that we believe will help strengthen, align and reduce the career educational silos that can be difficult for

---

<sup>1</sup> 2022-2023 California Department of Education data from TopsPro Enterprise; Extracted 05/2024

students to navigate. Such recommendations will also help ensure more efficient use of our precious resources within the systems while also providing opportunity to more clearly assess the state's progress in meeting the needs under the California Master Plan for Career Education.

- 1. Include K12 Adult Education providers in all local, regional and state-level planning of career pathways.** K12 Adult Education providers (adult schools) work with the target populations identified in the Master Plan for Career Education Core Concepts: English language learners, people with disabilities, and incarcerated populations, in addition to people with low literacy, and other traditionally underserved groups. Adult Schools are well-situated to serve people in these groups as they seek to enter new careers or advance in their existing careers. Further, K12 Adult Education programs provide a bridge to higher education and careers for those who need more support and skill development in order to be successful. However, we are concerned that the current planning across each of the delivery systems and stakeholders is fragmented and would benefit from greater coordinated planning. To this end, we recommend K12 Adult Education providers be represented in all aspects and levels of planning for career pathways for Californians.
- 2. Leverage and expand existing relationships and collaborative structures between K12 Adult Schools, Community Colleges, Apprenticeships/Pre-Apprenticeships, and Workforce Development Boards.** For the last ten years, the K12 Adult Education providers have been working collaboratively with community colleges to support development of career pathways and transitions. This is a foundation to build upon. While it such collaboration has had its challenges, it has also increased opportunities for beneficial supports and pathways that are more easily navigated by adult students. Leveraging these existing relationships and collaborative structures will help ensure alignment and coordination across a host of career pathway options.
- 3. Improve collaboration and coordination across systems.** Increase alignment, articulation, dual-enrollment, and coordination between existing and new programs across all providers, including community-based organizations, colleges, adult schools, and K12 schools. This will reduce duplication of services, increase efficiency, and improve access to a system of comprehensive services and training programs for adults.
- 4. Create alignment of data systems across types of providers.** Develop consistency across agencies and systems to generate comparable data, allowing for program evaluation, referrals, and tracking. Beyond aligning on a broad level, the actual data management systems need to be reviewed in detail and adjusted where needed to ensure that data collected and reported supports system alignment. As an example, while the California Department of Education and Community College system were required to align their data under AB 104 (2015), they continue to use separate systems that do not provide for consistent evaluation of outcomes. We recommend the Master Plan for Career Education support alignment of data systems and data elements across all types of providers to enable more consistent and reliable data, as well as more meaningful evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs.

California's K12 Adult Schools provide instruction under the oversight of the California Department of Education, a named agency in Executive Order N-16-22, and are funded through state and federal channels to provide education aligned to this initiative. We are eager to contribute to the coordinated effort to increase opportunity, access, and outcomes associated with the Master Plan for Career Education and appreciate your consideration of these recommendations.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and recommendations. Should you wish to discuss them in greater detail, we would be happy to do so via our advocate Dawn Koepke with McHugh Koepke Padron Government Relations who can be reached at (916) 606-5309 or [dkoepke@mchughgr.com](mailto:dkoepke@mchughgr.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Thomas Reid  
President  
CCAЕ



Steve Curiel  
President  
CAEAA

Cc: Members, California Council for Adult Education (CCAЕ)  
Members, California Adult Education Administrators Association (CAEAA)