





The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: January 7-8, 2013

SUBJECT: Legislative Analyst's Office Report on Adult Education		Item Number: 3.6	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Barry Russell, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: On December 5, 2012, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) issued a report entitled Restructuring California's Adult Education System. This report offers a comprehensive review of adult education programs in California's public school districts and community colleges, critiquing the state's disjointed policy approach and recommending a series of changes related to governance, program structure, funding, and data collection.

BACKGROUND: Providing adult learners with instruction in basic knowledge and skills is a core mission of the California Community Colleges. Our colleges provide this instruction through a variety of modalities, including non-credit and credit instruction, and in a variety of instructional areas including immigrant education, elementary and secondary education, English as a second language, and programs for adults with disabilities. In addition to the instruction provided by the California Community Colleges, K-12 school districts are also charged with providing adult education.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented to the Board for information and discussion.

ANALYSIS: Below is an overview of LAO’s recent recommendations related to adult education. The full report is provided as an attachment.

A Roadmap to Restructuring California’s Adult Education System: Summary of LAO Recommendations

Focus State Support on Core Adult Education Mission

- Reduce number of authorized state-supported instructional programs from ten to six: (1) adult elementary and secondary education, (2) English as a second language (ESL), (3) citizenship and workforce preparation, (4) vocational education, (5) apprenticeship, and (6) adults with disabilities.

Provide a Clear and Consistent Distinction at California Community Colleges between Adult Education and Collegiate Instruction

- Restrict credit instruction in English and ESL to transfer-level coursework, and credit instruction in math to one level below transfer. Require courses below these levels to be offered on a noncredit basis.
- Convene a work group to advise the Legislature and California Community Colleges Board of Governors on the appropriate delineation between adult education (noncredit) and collegiate instruction (credit) for vocational education.

Resolve Inconsistent and Conflicting Adult Education Policies

- No longer require instructors at adult schools to hold a teaching credential so that adult education faculty can teach at both adult schools and community colleges.
- Establish an enrollment fee (such as \$25 per course) for students taking adult education courses through adult schools or California Community Colleges.
- Allow California Community College faculty to place students into adult education courses based on assessment results (as faculty at adult schools currently are permitted to do). Require that adult schools use only assessment instruments that have been evaluated and approved for placement purposes (as community colleges currently are required to do).

Create a New Funding Mechanism for Adult Education

- Fund adult education as a separate item within school district budgets.
- Provide adult schools with the same noncredit funding rate that California Community College districts receive.
- Allocate base adult education funds on combination of enrollment and performance.
- Allocate new funds for adult education based on regional needs.

- Promote collaboration among providers by adopting common course numbering for adult education.

Promote a Coordinated Data System

- Clarify legislative intent that adult schools and California Community Colleges use common student identification numbers.