AB 86 Adult Education Update

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Background

Assembly Bill 86, Section 76, Article 3 charged the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) with jointly implementing an adult education planning process. The legislation appropriated $25 million to distribute to regional consortia to develop plans with the goal of better serving the educational needs of California’s adult learners. The following five instructional areas are to be addressed in the plans:

- Elementary and secondary basic skills, including classes required for a high school diploma;
- Classes and courses for immigrants in English as a second language, citizenship, and workforce preparations;
- Education programs for adults with disabilities;
- Short-term career technical education programs with high employment potential; and
- Programs for apprentices.

Progress to Date

- A website provides information and resources - ab86.cccco.edu.
- 50+ webinars have been held to offer information, technical assistance, and share effective practices.
- A Stakeholder Sounding Board and expert panels were convened.
- Regional Town Hall Meetings were held throughout the state, and feedback was used to develop the Certification of Eligibility.
- The Certification of Eligibility was released in December, 2013.
- A Preliminary Report to the California Legislature was submitted in March, 2014.
- AB 86 Regional Planning summit held in October, 2014.
- A fiscal funding committee convened to develop recommendations for 2015.

Consortia completed two reports that focused on:
- Documenting the current level of adult education services in each region,
- Evaluating the current need for adult education programs,
- Defining the gap between services and need,
- Alignment of programs to create seamless transitions,
- Strategies to accelerate student progress toward academic and career goals,
- Collaborating to provide professional development, and
- Leveraging existing regional structures.
The Work Group was recently reconfigured and expanded to include additional representation from K-12 and community college providers. Members include stakeholders and representatives of advocacy and labor groups. The first meeting was held November 14, 2014 and was facilitated by McKinsey & Company. Additionally, experts were convened to develop recommendations as directed by SB 173. The recommendations will be edited and vetted by the larger Work Group, and sent to the Cabinet for final review. SB 173 calls out alignment of assessment, accountability and fee structures between both provider systems.

Consortia continue their regional planning. Emerging from this planning are many examples of effective practices that are posted on the AB86.cccco.edu website under Practices with Promise. Technical assistance, virtual and site visits, continues to be provided to regions as requested. Many consortia are holding regional summits, collaborative planning meetings, and small work group meetings. Faculty and instructors continue to be involved in greater numbers as documented by the reports.

Next Steps

A final report will be presented to the Legislature and Governor in March of 2015 and will include the regional consortia plans and the conclusions drawn from those plans. The legislature expects this report to identify what is needed to expand and improve the provision of adult education throughout the state. The report will include suggestions on consortia structures that address leadership and decision making processes, resource needs, future delivery models, and expanding the critical linkages between the K-12 and Community College systems that enable student progress and completion. A close review of what has been presented from each region will be the basis for this summative report. The report will offer a unique opportunity to inform state-level policy and budget decisions to support additional improvement in the state’s delivery system serving adult learners.