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Adult Education: May Revision Overview

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented to:
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Chair





Various Improvements in May Revision Proposal

Improvements	Description
Strengthens Governance and Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaces allocation board with a governance structure determined by each regional consortium. • Requires that a consortium member be represented only by an official designated by the member's governing board. • Requires that consortia consider proposed decisions (including approving regional plans and allocation schedules) at public meetings, request feedback from stakeholders, and consider and respond to comments about these decisions. • Requires alignment of consortia data with other adult and workforce education data.
Better Incorporates Other Adult Education Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires each consortium's plan to reflect all funding for adult and workforce education in the region. • Requires that entities receiving state funding for education programs serving adults be members of consortia. • Requires Chancellor and Superintendent to develop a plan to distribute federal adult education funding to consortia.
Provides Earlier Funding Information to Consortia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advances date that Chancellor and Superintendent must certify hold harmless amount by one month, to July 30, 2015. • Requires state to provide consortia, and consortia to provide local providers, nonbinding two-year funding projections.
Paves Way for More Consistent Regional Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires regional adult education plans to include information about how consortia members are coordinating placement, academic standards, qualifications for instructors, and collection of data across providers.



Room for Improvement

- ☑ ***Locks in Individual Provider Funding Levels.*** Limits consortia's ability to respond to changes in regional demand for adult and workforce education by prohibiting year-to-year reductions to a member's funding (or disproportionate reductions in the event of budget shortfalls) except under narrow circumstances.

- ☑ ***Some Details Still Missing.*** Lacks specific program goals (such as expected levels of service) and effectiveness measures. Does not provide Legislature with notice prior to allocation of state funds. Lacks statewide alignment of policies for student assessment, accountability (including use of common student identifiers), and student fees.



Recommendations

- Do Not Lock in Provider Funding Levels.*** We recommend rejecting statutory language that locks in funding levels for consortium members. Purpose of consortium approach was to increase state's flexibility to meet adult and workforce education needs in each region. Proposal would minimize flexibility.
- Develop Clear Measures of Effectiveness Based on Initial Local Performance Reports.*** Consortia are required to include measures of effectiveness in their reports to the state. The Legislature could use the best approaches from these initial reports to define consistent measures of effectiveness across consortia going forward.
- Require Notice of Allocations.*** Require the Chancellor and Superintendent to provide 30-day notice to the Legislature of the allocation methods it develops before disbursing funds to consortia.
- Set Deadline for Adopting Consistent Adult Education Policies.*** Require Chancellor and Superintendent, in collaboration with the California Workforce Investment Board, to develop consistent state policies and actionable implementation plans in the areas of student assessment, accountability (including use of common student identifiers), and student fees by July 1, 2016. Make continued funding of three adult education staffing positions at each CDE and Chancellor's Office contingent on meeting the new deadline.