

ADULT EDUCATION

*A Newsletter on Adult Education in California
October 2014*

SB 173 ADDS TO THE MIX ON CONSORTIA PLANNING

With significant amendments, Senator Carol Liu's SB 173 passed the legislature and was approved by Governor Brown. As amended, its provisions add to the factors applicable to the present AB 86 work, calling for the following:

- Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) and the state Chancellor's Office (CO) to issue assessment and policy guidelines to be used for purposes of student placement in adult education.
- Requires CDE and CO to issue policy recommendations to the legislature regarding a comprehensive accountability system for adult education.
- Requires CDE and CO to issue recommendations on adult education fees.
- Requires the CO, in conjunction with CDE, to annually report on courses and student enrollments in adult education, and report on deficits in course offerings based on needs identified by adult education consortia.
- Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to submit recommendations by July 1, 2016 on the reciprocity of adult education instructors in K-12 districts and community colleges.

The good news is that with the enactment of SB 173, the legislature and Governor are affirming that the work of the adult education consortia is being taken seriously. SB 173 further affirms that a new adult education program will begin on July 1, 2015, and the continued work of the consortia will be needed to implement the AB 86 consortia plans. The added factor of the SB 173 accountability also will serve to inform state decision makers on the effectiveness of adult education programs.

What to Do . . .

MULTIPLE APPROACHES NEEDED TO INFORM LEGISLATORS

As 2015 approaches and the state legislature and governor begin their work, it becomes critical that all state legislators are aware of what is at stake for adult education and that they get information on your programs and your AB 86 consortium work. One approach to informing legislators will not be enough. Versions of the following are needed: Visits to local offices; Invitations for legislators to see your programs and participate in your events; and Letters from staffs and students.

The current reality in the state legislature is that an increasing percentage of members comes from families that are much like those of students in adult education. The new President Pro Tem of the State Senate, Kevin de Leon, in his inaugural speech, praised his mother for overcoming significant barriers in raising her family. The support is there in the legislature, but members need the information to become fellow advocates for adult education.