

AB 86 Overview & FAQs

The state of California has provided \$22.5 million in planning grants for adult school and community college consortia. The goal is to redesign an educational system that creates linkages for students across adult schools and community colleges to accelerate academic and career success.

Need – Adults have low skill levels despite increasing need for some post-secondary education

- Approximately 57% of the workforce have low literacy, limited English proficiency or lack an education past high school while most family-sustaining jobs require some college education.
- Two-thirds of the 2020 workforce is in the workforce today, beyond the reach of K-12 or college access reform strategies.

Purpose – Develop a regional comprehensive plan for adult education and influence funding

- Each consortium will prepare a comprehensive plan for the ongoing coordination and integration of adult education.
- A statewide working group will review the preliminary and final Regional Comprehensive Plans to inform the development of new legislation to permanently fund adult education.

Timeline

Regional Comprehensive Plan – Draft 1 (overview and objectives 1, 2 and 4)	July 31, 2014
Regional Comprehensive Plan – Draft 2	October 31, 2014
Regional Comprehensive Plan – Draft 3	December 31, 2014
Regional Comprehensive Plan – Final	March 1, 2015

Program Areas – Plan to Improve the Delivery of Services in five areas

1. Elementary and secondary basic skills
2. Offerings for immigrants – citizenship, ESL and workforce preparation classes in basic skills
3. Education programs for adults with disabilities
4. Short-term career technical education programs with high employment potential
5. Programs for apprentices

Objectives – Conduct data collection and planning to address the seven AB 86 objectives

1. Evaluate Current Offerings - Evaluate the current levels and types of adult education programs, including correctional adult education; credit, noncredit, and enhanced noncredit adult education coursework; and programs funded through Title II of the federal Workforce Investment Act.
2. Assess Current Needs for Adult Education - Evaluate current needs for adult education.
3. Plan to Integrate Programs for Seamless Transitions - Plan to integrate existing adult school and community college programs and create seamless transitions into postsecondary education or the workforce.
4. Address Gaps in Service - Plan to address the gaps identified pursuant to objectives (1) and (2).
5. Accelerate Success - Plan to employ approaches proven to accelerate a student's progress toward his or her academic or career goals, such as contextualized basic skills and career technical education, and other joint programming strategies between adult education and career technical education.

6. Collaborate on Professional Development - Plan to collaborate in the provision of ongoing professional development opportunities for faculty and other staff to help them achieve greater program integration and improve student outcomes.
7. Leverage Regional Structures - Plan to leverage existing regional structures, including, but not necessarily limited to, local workforce investment areas.

Frequently Asked Questions and Clarifications on AB 86 –

(Sources: AB 86 website: <http://ab86.cccco.edu/> and AB 86 Statewide Working Group updates)

Q: I had understood that the original intent of the governor’s legislation was to have one system for adult education in California. Will the Community College and CDE Adult Education systems be merged?

A: The language of AB86 provides planning funds for adult education delivery through regional consortia. The intention of AB86 is that the two delivery systems remain as separate entities and through consortia, integrate programs, create linkages, and develop regional plans to better serve the educational needs of adults.

Q: What funding will be available in 2015/16?

A: The AB86 funding is for planning and implementation grants. The intent of the legislature is to provide additional funding in 2015/16 to the regional consortia to expand and improve adult education. The Governor has indicated that categorical funding for adult education will be restored. We do not know what the level of funding will be in 2015-2016, but historical levels suggest annual funding in the range of \$500 – 800 million per year.

Q: What strategies can we use to deliver Adult Education?

A: We encourage each consortia to initiate discussions on best practices for delivery of service to the five educational areas. AB86 is not prescriptive but requires regional consortia to "employ approaches proven to accelerate a student's progress toward his or her academic or career goals, such as contextualized basic skills and career technical education, and other joint programming strategies between adult education and career technical education."

Myth: The Community Colleges will be taking over adult education and adult schools will be closed.

Fact: AB 86 is about collaboration between the Community Colleges and Adult Schools. The purpose of the planning grants is to bring together the strengths of both systems in order to better serve the educational needs of adults in California.

Myth: AB86 means that all community colleges are directed to have non-credit adult ed programs.

Fact: AB 86 does not require all community colleges to have non-credit adult ed programs. However, even if colleges offer only credit programs, they are vital to effective regional planning and are encouraged to participate in regional consortia. AB 86 specifically lists credit programs as a part of the regional planning process.

Myth: AB 86 has cut funding for Older Adult and Community Education.

Fact: The issue of funding for Older Adult and Community Education programs is outside the scope of AB86. AB 86 was passed in June 2013 to address regional planning through consortia to improve adult education in the following areas:

1. Elementary and secondary basic skills, including classes required for a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate
2. Classes and course for immigrants eligible for education services in citizenship and English as a second language and workforce preparation classes in basic skills
3. Education programs for adults with disabilities
4. Short-term career technical education programs with high employment potential
5. Programs for apprentices