



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

JACK O'CONNELL
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 10, 2009

Dear Adult Educators:

IMPORTANT BUDGET INFORMATION

It is truly a time of transition for the California Adult Education system as we have known it. The recent budget flexibility decisions have implications that we are just beginning to experience. The California Department of Education (CDE) Adult Education Office (AEO) is committed to providing the support and technical assistance that you need as you re-define and design your adult education program to fit the current constructs. In order for you to plan for the future it is necessary to have accurate information. Right now there is so much that is unknown and many questions will require a fiscal and legal opinion. We will provide information to you as we receive it.

The base year that will be used to determine the budget for this year and every year through the 2012-13 year for Adult Education and Regional Occupational Programs will be 2007-08. The amount will be determined by the revenue that was generated in 2007-08, minus approximately 15.4 percent for 2008-09, and again reduced by approximately 4.9 percent in 2009-10. The exact percentage of the reductions is not yet known.

The AEO is working with the CDE fiscal services to recommend how the reduction can be taken from the average daily attendance (ADA) Cap instead of from the Base Revenue Limit. Although the amount of the reduction would be the same, it is important that we preserve the capacity of the adult education system to best serve students in the future. For now, it has *not* been determined if the reduction will come from ADA Cap or Base Revenue Limit.

We also know that each district will have maximum flexibility to administer an adult education program, and all programs will be deemed compliant through 2012-13. There are some specific exceptions surrounding this, and the CDE's legal office will provide more information. Many questions remain including those that address offering services outside the district boundaries, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CALWorks) allocations, and charging for English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and Adult Secondary Education (ASE)/General Educational Development (GED) classes.

March 10, 2009
Page 2

It is important to note that reserves or ending year balances for adult education are not subject to the flexibility budget, and cannot be swept. Also, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title II federal funds are not included in the flexibility budget. Those funds must be used for adult education programs, and the current accountability regulations remain in place.

We recognize the need to have a single location to pose questions, to obtain current data on the changes that local agencies are experiencing, and to report the changes to your agency. To that end, the CDE AEO, along with the Outreach and Technical Assistance Network (OTAN) and field members, are developing an online resource site. Our goal is to have it functioning this week and details will be forthcoming.

The AEO is here to work with you as we build the future of adult education within the new paradigm. Together we will seek opportunities to maintain the integrity of our adult education system and best serve our students with high quality programs.

If you have any further questions regarding this subject, please contact Debra G. Jones, Administrator, Adult Education Office, at 916-323-5074 or by e-mail at djones@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Debra G. Jones, Administrator
Adult Education Office

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