

Date of Hearing: April 28, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1112 (Lopez) – As Amended March 26, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Adult education: consortia: parenting education: family literacy education

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes adult programs, California Community Colleges (CCC) noncredit courses and classes, and the adult education regional consortia, established pursuant to Education Code (EC) Section 84830, to provide family literacy education. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Expands parenting education provided by adult education programs administered by school districts and CCC noncredit courses to include family literacy education, which may include support to children and schoolaged youth with limited English proficiency backgrounds in the households of participating adults.
- 2) Specifies that the grant funds provided to regional consortia to create and implement adult education plans shall include parenting education, including, but not necessarily limited to, parent cooperative preschools and classes in child growth and development and parent-child relations, and family literacy education, which may include support to children and schoolaged youth with limited English proficiency backgrounds in the households of participating adults.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Authorizes both the CCC and K-12 systems to offer and receive state funding for adult education courses (EC Sections 41976 and 84757).
- 2) Authorizes the following classes and courses to be offered by the school districts and county superintendent of schools for apportionment purposes from the adult education fund and prohibits state apportionment to be made for any course or class not specified in law:
  - a) Adult programs in parenting, including parent cooperative preschools, and classes in child growth and development, parent-child relationships, and parenting;
  - b) Adult programs in elementary and secondary basic skills and other courses and classes required for the high school diploma;
  - c) Adult education programs in English as a second language;
  - d) Adult education programs for immigrant eligible for educational services in citizenship, English as a second language, and workforce preparation classes in the basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, mathematics, decisionmaking and problem solving skills, and other classes required for preparation to participate in job specific technical training;
  - e) Adult education programs for adults with disabilities;
  - f) Adult short-term career technical education programs with high employment potential;

- g) Adult programs for older adults;
  - h) Adult education programs for apprentices;
  - i) Adult programs in home economics; and,
  - j) Adult programs in health and safety education (EC Section 41976).
- 3) Prohibits the local governing board of a community college district (CCD) maintaining a noncredit course from requiring an adult enrolled in such a course to pay nonresident tuition or any fee or charge of any kind for a class in English and citizenship for foreigners, a class in an elementary subject, a class designated as granting high school credit to an individual without a high school diploma or other adult basic education programs and courses, as specified (EC Section 76380).
- 4) Authorizes a school district governing board to require a fee of an adult enrolled in a class for adults and prohibits the total of the fees required and revenues derived from average daily attendance from exceeding the estimated cost of maintaining such classes. Current law also prohibits the imposition of a charge of any kind for a class in English and citizenship or a class in an elementary subject, nor for any class which is designated as granting high school credit when the class is taken by a person who does not hold a high school diploma. To note: for a class in English and citizenship, a fee may be charged only until July 1, 2015 (EC Section 52612).
- 5) Prohibits the CCC from requiring an adult enrolled in a noncredit course to pay nonresident tuition or any fee or charge of any kind for a class in English and citizenship for foreigners, a class in an elementary subject, a class designated by the governing board as a class for which high school credit is granted when the class is taken by a person who does not hold a high school diploma, or any class offered by a CCD pursuant to Sections 8531, 8532, 8533, or 8534 (EC Section 76380).
- 6) Charges the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and the California Department of Education (CDE) to jointly implement an adult education planning process; authorizes the CCCCCO and the CDE to distribute \$25 million to regional consortia to develop plans with the shared goal of better serving the educational needs of California's adult learners; and, specifies that the following five areas are to be addressed in the plans:
- a) Elementary and secondary basic skills, including classes required for a high school diploma;
  - b) Classes and courses for immigrants in English as a second language, citizenship, and workforce preparations;
  - c) Education programs for adults with disabilities;
  - d) Short-term career technical education programs with high employment potential; and,
  - e) Programs for apprentices (EC Section 84830).

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** *This measure was heard and approved by a vote of 5-2 in the Assembly Education Committee relating to issues within its jurisdiction on April 8, 2015.*

*Background.* Adult education in California is part of a large, complex, and diverse multi-provider system. It is a vital and integral part of the larger educational system that provides adults with the skills and education that enable them to earn a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) certificate, become American citizens, acquire specific job skills, learn English, and/or become independent and productive parents and members of their community.

*Adult Education and Community College Noncredit.* Adult education instruction is offered primarily at adult schools and community colleges. Some programs are also offered at community based organizations, libraries, correctional facilities, and the California Conservation Corps. California adult education schools offer the following ten programs:

- 1) Adult Basic Education;
- 2) English as a Second Language;
- 3) High School Diploma or Adult Secondary Education, including GED certification;
- 4) Citizenship Preparation;
- 5) Career Technical Education;
- 6) Adults with Disabilities;
- 7) Health and Safety;
- 8) Parent Education;
- 9) Home Economics; and,
- 10) Courses for Older Adults.

*State apportionment.* The majority of funding for adult education and community college noncredit comes from state apportionment. The state provides approximately 90 percent of the total funding for adult education and community college noncredit programs. State apportionment funds are distributed to adult schools through average daily attendance. Funding for community college noncredit is based upon a formula per Full Time Equivalent Student (FTES). The remaining financing, approximately 10 percent, is provided by federal funds.

*AB 86 Regional Consortia.* The Governor, in January 2013, proposed in his 2013-2014 budget, shifting the coordination and administration of all adult education programs to the CCC. The K-12 adult education program would be eliminated, but CCC could contract with school districts to provide instruction. Due to concerns about the timing and structure of the proposal, the Governor's May 2013 revision of the budget withdrew the proposal and instead maintained the current system for two years while allocating \$30 million for planning grants awarded to regional consortia comprised of CCC and K-12 districts for the purpose of creating plans to integrate existing programs and determine how best to serve adult students within regions throughout the state. The budget adopted by the Legislature reduced the planning grants to \$25 million and adopted trailer bill language in AB 86 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2013).

AB 86 specified that the plans developed by the regional consortia shall only include the provision of the following programs:

- 1) Elementary and secondary basic skills (GED);
- 2) Classes and courses for immigrants (citizenship, English as a second language);
- 3) Education programs for adults with disabilities;
- 4) Short-term career technical education programs; and,
- 5) Programs for apprentices.

Excluded are four programs that are authorized to be offered through adult schools and CCCs, including 1) parenting education; 2) programs for older adults; 3) home economics; and 4) health and safety programs. The Governor's 2015-16 budget proposes to allocate \$500 million for the adult education block grant, which will be used to fund the programs included in the AB 86 regional consortia plans.

This measure adds parenting education to the courses to be offered through the regional consortia plans and expands parenting education to include family literacy education, with special focus on support for adults with children and schoolaged youth with limited English proficiency. Additionally, this measure also expands parenting education programs previously offered through adult education categorical funds and noncredit adult education courses offered by CCCs to include family literacy education.

*Committee considerations.* As stated above, the budget language refocused adult education on elementary and secondary basic skills, classes and courses for immigrants, short-term career technical education programs, and programs for apprentices. The AB 86 Consortia submitted their final report to the Legislature in March of this year (per AB 86) based on its plans for the aforementioned categories. *The Committee may wish to decide if it is appropriate to add another category to the AB 86 Consortia, thus taking away from the very recent directive the Legislature and Governor agreed upon.*

The 2015-2016 budget trailer bill calls for \$500 million for the AB 86 Consortia to implement its programs, via an education block grant. If the author's intent is to add parent education and family literacy into the eligible programs funded by the AB 86 Consortia, *instead of this measure, the author may wish to explore adding parent education and family literacy through the budget process.*

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

None on file.

### **Opposition**

California EDGE Coalition  
One Individual

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