



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

TONY THURMOND
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Dear Adult Educators:

Subject: Student Funding in Adult Education Programs

California state law mandates compulsory education for students through 18 years of age. Students that have not completed the course work for a high school diploma may continue through age 20 provided that they are continuously enrolled or concurrently enrolled in the K–12 system. It is the fiscal responsibility of the K–12 district, through the collection of average daily attendance and local control funding, to cover all the costs of educating continuously enrolled and concurrently enrolled students that may attend an Adult Education Program for credit courses toward a high school diploma.

Students over the age of 18 who have dropped out at any age and elect to complete their high school diploma program must do so in an Adult Education Program, either at a community college where high school diplomas are offered, or through a K–12 adult education school. Funds to provide educational programs for these students are available through the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) budget and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Title II: Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (WIOA, Title II: AEFLA). These students do not generate average daily attendance funds for the school district or the adult school. Therefore, services are limited by the monetary allocations from the CAEP budget and WIOA, Title II: AEFLA funds provided to the adult education agencies.

Students under 18 may enroll in an adult education school only for purposes of making up credits toward graduation, or taking enrichment courses not offered at the K–12 comprehensive high school. This enrollment must be accompanied by permission from the school counselor and, in addition, the student's parent or legal guardian. The district must insure that the adult education school can meet the educational needs of the student. The district must also incur all legal liability and is responsible for all costs using funds collected through K–12 average daily attendance and local control funding. The district may not use CAEP or WIOA, Title II: AEFLA funds for these students regardless of the courses taken.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact the Adult Education Office by email at adulthoodeducation@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Zachry, Ed.D., Education Administrator and State Director
Adult Education Office