



Implementing SB 554 Adult Dual Enrollment (ADE): From Statute to Strategy



California Adult Education Program (CAEP) Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) at North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE)

March 20, 2026

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM



Welcome!

In the Chat, please:

Introduce yourself and your affiliation (Consortia or Member, College, etc.)



Housekeeping

- This meeting is being recorded.
- The recording and PowerPoint will be released on the Cal Adult Ed Website following remediation.
- Please fill out the survey at the end. We value your feedback and use it to improve our webinars.



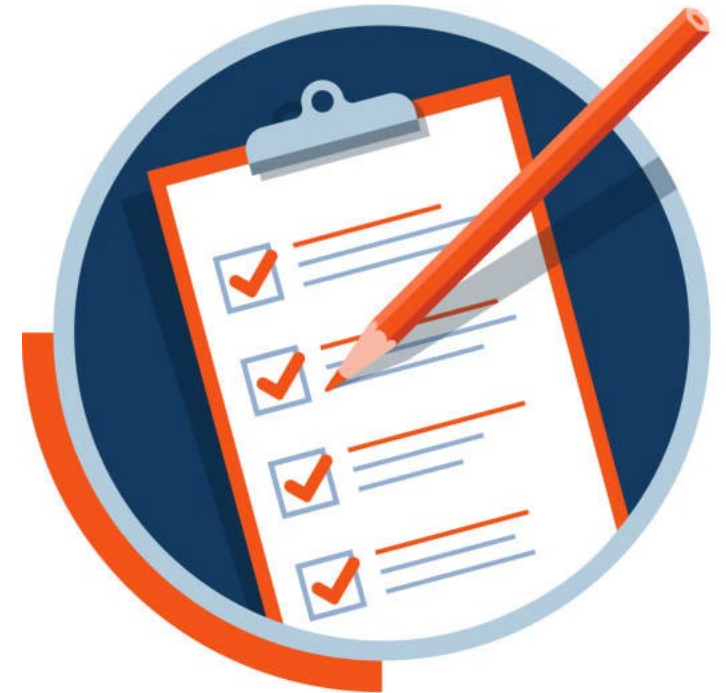
Gracious Space

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Affirming others | Trusting others and being trustworthy | Being open to different and conflicting views |
| Accepting of other perspectives | Willing to change my mind | Welcoming others not from my comfort zone |
| Innovative new approaches | Reflecting on assumptions | Being authentic |
| Being present | Being curious | Bridging boundaries |
| Being aware of my impact of others | Asking open-ended questions | Holding off judgement |
| Assuming other's best intentions | Being comfortable not knowing | Sharing power |
| Being intentional | Being collaborative | |



Agenda

- Housekeeping
- Introductions & Learning Objectives
- Statute
- Strategy
- Questions & Discussion
- Closing Activities



Learning Objectives

- **Explain** the purpose, intent, and required components of SB 554 Adult Dual Enrollment.
- **Outline** the essential design elements needed to launch an Adult Dual Enrollment (ADE) program.
- **Analyze** common implementation challenges and their root causes.
- **Design** an initial framework for moving from policy understanding to program implementation.
- **Evaluate** your institution's readiness for Adult Dual Enrollment using key planning indicators.
- **Develop** a short-term action plan that identifies next steps and leverages available technical assistance supports.
- **Participate** in CAEP TAP at NOCE ADE Community of Practice.



SB 554: Creating Dual Enrollment Pathways for Adult Learners

Signed into law in October 2019, SB 554 allows adult learners in high school diploma or equivalency (HSD/HSE) programs to enroll in community college credit courses **tuition free** — while completing their high school credentials.

The Law

SB 554 waives tuition for adult dual enrollees

The Funding

Community colleges received enhanced apportionment for these enrollments

The Vision

Supports Chancellor's Office Vision 2030 goals of economic mobility through degree attainment



Traditional Dual Enrollment vs. Adult Dual Enrollment

Traditional dual enrollment lets high school students earn college credit. Adult Dual Enrollment (ADE) extends the same opportunity to adults working toward their HS diploma, progressing toward two milestones simultaneously.

Traditional Mindset

Courses for college-bound students; focus on academic prep; emphasis on general education; parent signature required

ADE Mindset

Active outreach to (working) adult learners; fosters motivation and career exploration; introduces high-opportunity CTE pathways; learner agency in course selection



Who are the "Adult Dual Enrollment" Students?

Typically adults who	Often	Seeking to
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return to education after time away• Have limited or no prior college experience• Balance multiple responsibilities	<p>From historically underserved and/or hard-to-reach populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore career and academic pathways• Transition into postsecondary education• Gain confidence



How ADE Benefits Adult Learners



Removes Cost Barriers

Tuition waived under SB 554. Some institutions also subsidize books and fees. Students preserve eligibility for future financial aid (Pell Grants, CA College Promise



Accelerates Progress

College credits can fulfill diploma requirements simultaneously. Research shows dual enrollment reduces need for remedial coursework later.



Expands Horizons

Boosts confidence and academic self-efficacy. Positive experiences ripple outward and inspire families and communities to pursue education.



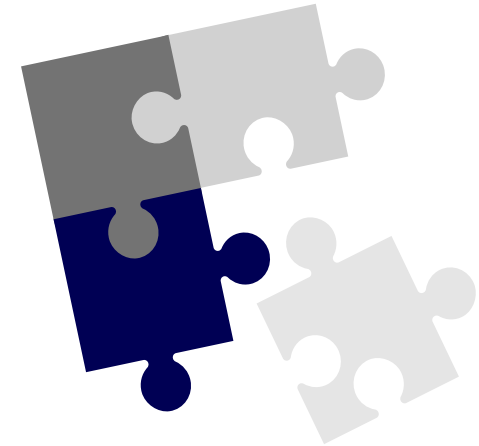


From Statute To Strategy

The statute provides the framework, but not the program design. Local agencies determine values, strategy, and approach.

Key Considerations:

- **Who** can participate and who are our partners?
- **Who** are the target students for Adult Dual Enrollment?
- **How** will students be recruited, enrolled, and supported?
- **Who** is responsible for advising and coordination?
- **How will success be measured** (enrollment, persistence, transitions)?





Who Can Participate & What Can They Take?

Who is eligible?

Any adult in an HSD/HSE program at a California adult school or community college, including:

- Newcomers (age 18+)
- Justice-impacted individuals
- Undocumented persons

Undocumented students can begin logging time toward residency status and future financial aid eligibility.

What Courses Are Available?

Students may enroll in up to 11 units (excluding PE). Options include:

- General education / transfer courses
- Career education / certificate programs
- Counseling and college experience courses
- Electives aligned with career goals



A Case Management Approach

For ADE benefits to reach all learners, robust collaborative support is essential. Ideally, programs have dedicated counselors from both the adult school and community college.



Counseling & Goal Setting

Individual education plans informed by career review and exploration; guidance on course selection



Academic & Career Support

Tutoring, career services, early alert systems for struggling students



Enrollment Support

Help with CCCApply, course registration, and navigating college deadlines



Wrap-Around Services

Referrals to food pantry, childcare, housing, healthcare, and emergency loans



How ADE Benefits Community Colleges

Increases Enrollment & Revenue

141,562 adults were in HSD/HSE programs in 2023-24. This is a large pool of potential new students. ADE participants are likely to continue at community colleges.

Strengthen Communities and Partnerships

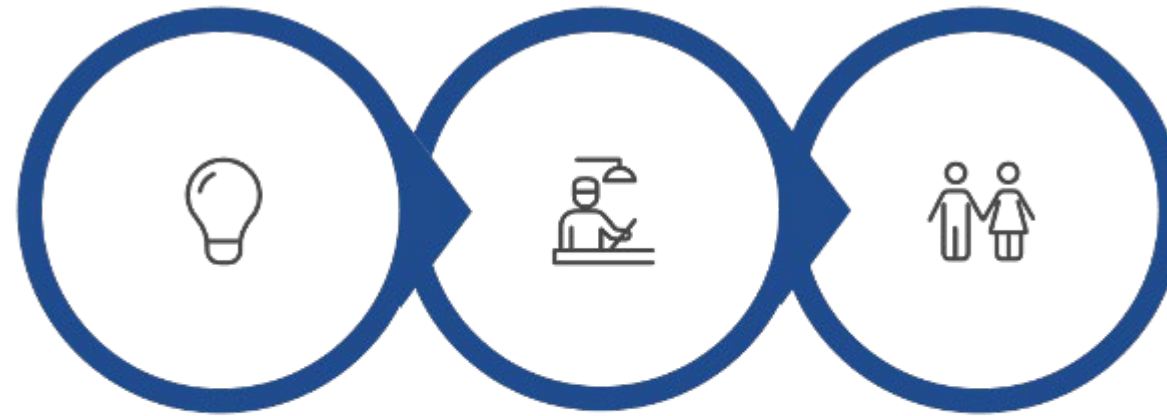
Close coordination between staff across segments builds shared understanding of adult learner needs and promotes cross-institutional professional development.

Promote Positive Outcomes

As [research briefs](#) indicate, students are more likely to enroll in college and continue toward degrees. Qualitative data suggests increased student confidence, agency, and navigation skills.



Three Steps to Develop an ADE Program



Shared Vision

Systems &
Processes

Teams &
Support

Each step builds on the last: vision alignment enables systems to be designed correctly, and strong systems empower the human networks that support students





Who Should Be At The Table?

Community College Participants

- President / Vice Presidents / Deans
- Chief Financial Officer
- Director of Admissions & Records
- Dual Enrollment Coordinator(s)
- Counselors & Outreach Staff
- ESL, CTE, or discipline leads

Adult School Participants

- Superintendent / Principal
- Adult Education Transition Specialists
- Counselors & Teachers
- ESL, CTE, or subject matter leads

Ideally, a community college VP becomes a champion for the effort.



Possible Partnership Roles

Community College










- Offer approved college courses
- Handle enrollment and registration processes
- Provide access to student services (counseling, tutoring, etc.)
- Track college enrollment and outcomes

Adult School / Noncredit Program

- Identify and recommend eligible students
- Prepare students for college credit-level expectations
- Provide academic and transition support
- Support recruitment and orientation
- Maintain connection with students while enrolled

Ideally, data protocols are developed in partnership and part of a MOU.

Systems and Processes

 Name ▾	Modified ▾	Modified By ▾
 01_Project_Plan	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute
 02_SB554_legislative	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute
 03_SB554_forms_internal guidelines	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute
 04_Workflow	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute
 05_Documentation	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute
 06_Data	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute
 07_Stakeholder_facing	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute
 08_Student_facing	August 21, 2025	Maschke, Ute

Covering Costs of ADE Implementation

ADE Program Expense	Example of Funding Source
Transition Specialist/Advisor/Counselor tailored marketing and support for ADE students	California Adult Education Program (CAEP) Community Colleges Student Equity & Achievement Program (SEAP)
College and career readiness instruction and advising	CAEP Community College (CC) Apportionment WIOA Title I
Program coordination/administration	CAEP CC General Fund or Categorical Program Funding
Student Fees	Waiver approved by CC & its board of trustees
Textbooks	CAEP & SEAP Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funds managed by the CC Library of textbooks maintained for subsequent student cohorts Use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Zero-Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses



Adult Dual Enrollment Is a Win-Win

Win for Adult Learners

Tuition-free college courses, accelerated credentials, career preparation, and expanded life opportunities

Win for Adult Schools and Colleges

Increased enrollment and completion (+ apportionment for colleges), stronger partnerships, and progress toward Vision 2030 goals

→ Learn from local & regional models

→ Start the conversation & find a champion

→ Track your data & share student success



Each Win comes with some challenges

How do we

- Move from theory to execution?
- Break down silos and align systems?
- Ensure ADE is equitable and inclusive, not just available?
- Move from pilot to institutionalized program(s)?
- Stronger messaging and engagement strategies
- Make ADE part of a clear, guided pathway—not a standalone experience?
- Build data systems for accountability and improvement?



Join the CAEP TAP Adult Dual Enrollment Community of Practice (CoP)

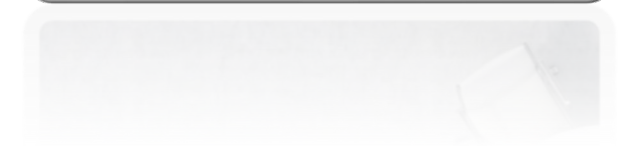
When: Launched February 2026 based on request from the field – meets monthly

Why:

- Address both growing interest in ADE & persistent challenges
- Share lessons learned
- Address challenges collaboratively
- Improve coordination across program partners
- Inform the work of CAEP TAP at NOCE

What is next:

- Considerations to create a resource repository
- Invitation to next CoP





Join the CAEP TAP Adult Dual Enrollment Community of Practice (CoP) Contd.

Next meeting set for April 14, 2026, at 12 PM. Scan QR to register.

Next Topics of Focus:

- How to get the word out (marketing and recruitment)
- How to scale ADE and offer consistent high-level of support
- How to monitor success and track data





Resources

A [May 2025 practice brief](#) from the San Diego-Imperial Counties consortium lays out models, eligibility criteria, instructional implementation steps, and examples of how adult schools and community colleges are creating ADE pathways locally

A summary of a system-wide seminar: <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/general/cccco-webinar-summary-may-2025-a11y.pdf>

Both build on two less recent documents:

- [CAEP Adult Dual Enrollment: Lessons and Opportunities](#) by High Road Alliance
- [Transitioning Adult Learners to College. A User Guide for Ability to Benefit and Adult Dual Enrollment](#) by Career Ladder Project



Resources Contd.

The recent [trailer bill language](#) looks to continue and expand the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) grant program and explicitly includes K–12 adult schools.

Though developed foremost for HS dual enrollment initiatives, the Equitable Dual Enrollment Policy to Practice Guide developed by AccelerateED includes a [data chapter](#) and a [data sharing tool](#) worth exploring applicability to ADE.



Q&A and Discussion





End of Webinar Survey

CC TAP wants to hear from you!

Please scan this QR code to answer a quick survey or use the link in the chat:





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- For Technical Assistance:
tap@caladulted.org

Join our Voices from the Field

Scan to fill out our Interest Form or share with colleagues who are knowledgeable in one of these areas:

- Adult Education and/or Noncredit Curriculum
- CAEP Fiscal Reporting
- CAEP Three-year plans/Annual Plans
- CAEP Data and Accountability Reporting
- Adult Education Pipeline LaunchBoard
- CAEP Program Improvement and Evaluation
- Adult Education and/or Noncredit Student Services



Thank You for Joining Us!

For any questions:

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your feedback:

