

# California Adult Education Pathway Mapping

## Purpose

WestEd has been contracted by the California Adult Education Program Office to inventory and review the CTE course offerings for all California adult schools. Our goal is to better understand the alignment between adult education CTE pathways in relation to local community colleges and regional



labor market data as measured by annual job openings and median wages. This effort will support adult educators and colleges with their pathway development and the alignment of CTE pathways with in-demand occupations leading to wage gains.

## Methodology

The inventory of CTE course offerings for adult schools and noncredit programs in the state of California will be developed primarily through a scan of publicly available course catalogs. WestEd staff will reach out to adult school personnel to collect course information when it is not available online. The WestEd team will conduct a small number of interviews with adult schools and noncredit programs from each California macro region in order to supplement the CTE course information dataset.

Interviews will focus primarily on how adult schools and noncredit programs choose to offer and develop CTE courses and pathways. Conducting interviews with adult education practitioners in the field is key to deepening our understanding of the alignment between adult education CTE course offerings and their alignment with higher education and career pathways in their region.

Using both the course inventory dataset and interviews from K12 adult and noncredit community college CTE programs, our team will compare regional CTE offerings to community college credit CTE programs and regional labor market demand. This analysis of proportionality and alignment of current adult education CTE pathways will be used to identify gaps in regional programming and identify opportunities to improve adult education student transition into credit programs or the labor market.

## Details of Information Collection

Inventory of Course Offerings	Interview Topics
The inventory will include specific details regarding course offerings and programs such as: sectors, occupations, course titles and descriptions, instructional contact hours, externship requirements, employer involvement, course fees, and other funding leveraged for the pathway.	Interview Topics will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why schools choose to offer their CTE courses.</li><li>• How schools are developing courses.</li><li>• Whether, and to what extent, there is industry engagement in developing CTE courses.</li><li>• How course offerings are communicated to students.</li></ul>

## Field Engagement

The WestEd team will bring findings from the analysis into the field through a series of regional workshops in Spring 2020. The workshops are intended to facilitate discussions between college and K12 adult education practitioners to support strengthening local and regional CTE pathways. After feedback from the field, WestEd and the CAEP Office will release the results in a final report. For more information contact Aurora King at WestEd; [aking@wested.org](mailto:aking@wested.org).