

Adult School News through Feb. 24, 2010

Below is information received via various means about the Tier III fall out as it pertains to adult schools and programs in the state.

Newport Mesa

By the end of June, a 40-person staff at the district's adult education program will be reduced to a handful of teachers at the Burbot Educational Support Services and Teaching Center, at 2045 Meyer Place in Costa Mesa. The Work Force Readiness Program, which helps students and adults prepare for careers, also will be eliminated, leaving the adult education program with only "a bare bones" version of a High School Diploma Program, officials said.

Madera Unified

An initial list of proposed budget cuts submitted by Madera Unified's staff earlier this month suggests trimming \$2.7 million from the district's \$170 million budget by closing the adult school.

Sac City Unified

Raymond still anticipates cutting \$15 million from programs such as adult education, school safety, Gifted and Talented Education and deferred maintenance.

Elk Grove Unified

Closing adult education program. May rehire some positions after budget resolved.

Alhambra Unified

It is true that a resolution was passed at the February 16 board meeting to blanket the entire adult ed division, certificated and administrative with March 15 notices. However, the plan is to bring back a very small ASE/GED program and to offer other classes as fee based. Some fee based will use current teachers at current salary scale (Unless there is successful negotiation re-openers.) Classes must have 20 students minimum in order to stay open. Other classes will be straight fee based, with contract teachers.

Santa Cruz City Unified

Adult education is threatened. Santa Cruz City Schools is looking at its own \$5.4 million deficit. According to the preliminary budget, which must go to the County Office of Education in March, adult education and maintenance will still take huge hits at \$1.43 million and \$1.3 million, respectively. However, with \$176,000 saved by nine days of furlough in administration, plus a tiny surplus, cuts to libraries, music, counselors and others from their general fund portion will be closer to \$530,000 than an original \$730,000. While GED programs will be spared in the proposal, preschool may see fee hikes, and English language classes will be significantly reduced. In 2008-2009, some 9,500 people enrolled in about 10,800 slots in everything from reading for English natives to English as a second language to ceramics, making the adult school the largest in the district. Two-thirds of enrollees are white; one-quarter is Latino. Multiple scenarios at a Santa Cruz City Schools board meeting last week showed cuts of \$500,000 to \$1.4 million to the program, meaning most classes will go.

Mt. Diablo

The Mt. Diablo school board has cut \$4 million from adult education, counseling, intervention for struggling students, campus supervision, technology and staff training. Adult education is likely to take another hit tonight, as trustees vote on recommended cuts of nearly \$850,000 through 2012. "We've already shrunk the adult education calendar," said Joanne Durkee, adult education director. "This summer is going to be greatly reduced in terms of the number of classes we're offering. We are increasing fees across the board. We are laying off staff. "We're in a position now where we have to kind of prioritize what we feel are the most needed educational services and try to continue to support those as much as we can." Classes being retained include those that help immigrants learn English and those that help adults earn high school diplomas or train them for jobs.

Martinez

At Tuesday's meeting, parents offered feedback on several options for cutting costs. They soundly rejected increasing class size in grades K-3 and eliminating high school and middle school sports. They supported shortening the school year, redirecting money from the adult education program to the schools and increasing the parcel tax by as much as \$50.

Placenta/Yorba Linda

Cutting back or eliminating adult education programs could save another \$230,000.

Stockton

Stockton School For Adults is the largest such site between Sacramento and Fresno. The school is not going anywhere. However, in these economically challenged times, funding has been reduced. The school's core services remain intact, but it will not offer a summer session this year and has reduced the number of weeks and hours for its night programs, Principal Carol Hirota said. State funding has decreased from \$4.1 million in 2007-08 to \$3.3 million this year. The school's fiscal reserves are being used to make up for some of the cuts. The school also receives funding from the federal government.

Watsonville/Aptos

Left untouched was Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education, which was facing a reduction of \$1.6 million from its general fund, on top of the \$650,000 it took in December.

Pajaro Valley

Board members voted 5-2 to cut \$650,000 from Adult Education as part of a \$5 million package of cuts to shore up the district's budget hole during the next three years.

Berkeley

Although the district has not announced any cuts to the adult program since slashing it by \$1.5 million last year to cover part of an \$8 million budget crunch, more reductions are anticipated. Campbell said the school, which serves over 10,000 students every year, had already eliminated summer session and pronunciation classes and increased the number of students in English language classes. The school also reduced the number of vice principal positions from two to one and cut staff hours by half last year.

Long Beach

Budget cuts to Long Beach Unified School District's adult education programs may result in higher-class fees and fewer course offerings next academic year, district officials said. Two programs - the Long Beach School for Adults and the Regional Occupational Program – are each being cut by \$700,000 as part of a \$32.6 million package of budget reductions that the school board approved last week.

Paradise Union

Following more than three hours of deliberation, proposals still on the table include reducing the school year by five days to 175; cutting adult education; transporting only special-education students; reducing amounts spent on nursing, custodians, information technology, library and cafeterias; instituting caps for benefits; and increasing class sizes for kindergarten and grades 1-3.

Oakland

Oakland's adult education programs would be slashed by almost 40 percent in 2010-11 (\$4.5 million of the \$11.5 million they currently receive in state funding) if the school board approves preliminary budget recommendations made by Superintendent Tony Smith Jan. 27.

Redlands

Last night, the superintendent proposed the elimination of Redlands Adult School. The Board of Education will vote on this in January, but it is pretty much a done deal. There are different levels of priority reductions and the adult school is in Level 1 with the note that "This level must be cut to offset July Budget Adjustment." The proposal was not even to reduce or restructure but to eliminate the adult school. The only reason the nursing program will be allowed to continue is to complete the WIA contract with the County.

Irvine

In June, the Irvine Unified School District eliminated funding for adult education. When the semester ended in June, school was slated to end as well. Instead, the Irvine Adult School stuck around. School leaders are gambling that students will pay for classes that were once free. The former nonprofit has one year to make itself self-sufficient.