

FAQS Re Adult Ed Budget Cuts

4/19/09

Below are some of the questions we're getting about the proposed budget cuts for adult ed. The answers reflect what we know (and mostly don't know) and what we've pieced together. Much of it is what we understand to be the case, based on limited information coming our way. This is what we know for now, not necessarily for tomorrow. Clearly things can change at a moment's notice.

SUMMER SCHOOL

1) Will there be summer school?

A. It's our current understanding that whether or not to have summer school is a school-by-school decision. Each principal will be making the choices about that.

2) If there is summer school, how long will it be?

A. We hear that it will be a 6-week session.

3) Will Programs for Older Adults classes be offered?

A. We have heard that summer assignments will be limited or possibly non-existent.

4) Administrators told us that, with the administration now on "B-Basis," summer school cannot be offered. True?

A. No.

5) When will decisions about summer school layoffs, etc., be made? Will it be on an individual school basis?

A. We hear that applications for summer school will be out when we return from Spring break. It is the principal's prerogative to decide what programs or classes will be offered. We hear that some programs will be considered priority programs.

LONGEVITY/SENIORITY/BUMPING

6) What's the difference between "longevity" and "seniority"?

A. Both have to do with who gets offered a job before someone else. "Seniority" refers to permanent (tenured) teachers; "longevity" is the term used for non-permanent teachers (untentured teachers who work part-time or full time).

7) How will longevity be configured? When will this be made public to all involved?

A. We're working on it. Soon.

8) Do you have any information about how teachers who are retired from a K-12 job and now teach in adult ed will be affected by the cuts?

A. See answer to #7.

9) I have been with DACE for 5 years with 2 schools, does that affect my longevity?

A. Contractually your longevity is district-wide.

10) For example, if someone has 30 years in the adult division in the Older Adults Program, and someone in Academic has 10 years, how does longevity play out in this situation?

A. Teachers do not bump other individual teachers. Principals are required to make assignments based on seniority and longevity. This may result in teachers with the least longevity not receiving assignments.

11) What happens to tenured teachers if DACE were to be disbanded (not funded)?

A. If LAUSD ceased to offer adult education, all teachers would be laid off. We don't anticipate this.

12) Can administrators bump teachers?

A. In some cases if they have longevity or seniority as teachers. Not all have that.

13) I have an out of classroom assignment. Can I return to my previous teaching assignment?

A. You have no right to return to your previous assignment, no guarantee of getting an assignment at a certain time of the day, no guarantee for a certain number of hours [unless you're tenured, then you're entitled to 30 hours.].

14) Can principals decide how to make cuts at their schools besides laying off teachers (i.e., cut summer school, work a 4 day week, reduce class hours).

A. Yes.

15) If you're not being hired back (either for summer or fall), should a written notice be provided and by whom?

A. No "RIF" (Reduction in Force) notice is required in adult ed for non-permanent teachers.

16) Does longevity apply to summer school?

A. No, but there are rules about who is hired for summer positions (i.e. no one new can be hired; you must have taught during the school year, etc.) See the contract: Article XX, 12.0.

BUDGET/ADA/PROGRAM CHANGES

17) Is ADA a thing of the past? Or will it reset in 4 years based on ADA in the next 4 years?

A. ADA reporting to the State has been suspended for 4 years. Adult Ed funding will not be dependent on student attendance for that period.

18) If there is no more ADA being reported to the State, what about CASAS testing and the funding based on test results. Is CASAS here to stay?

A. This is a federal program, which has nothing to do with state budget cuts or ADA. It is a source of "extra" money, so the Division says it's more important than ever and is prioritizing programs that do CASAS testing.

19) Does the adult school principal have the power to choose which programs go first?

A. Within the authority given to them by Central Office (DACE).

20) Has the state or district issued any guidelines regarding which programs are to be cut first, if any?

A. Yes, the State's Legislative Analyst's Office in Sacramento has identified priority programs. DACE Interim Ass't Supt. Ed Morris has given guidelines to principals to give priority to those programs that show "measurable outcomes."

21) Any info about what will happen to POA and Adults w/ Disabilities classes?

A. We have no official information. We are hearing that classes in nursing homes will be discontinued and that POA classes will be greatly reduced. We have also heard that few classes in POA will be offered in summer.

22) What about CTE programs? (2448 monies)

A. DACE has asked for another waiver delaying implementation (that 90% of ROC/P money be spent on high school students). ROC/P funding was cut 20% by the state, as was adult ed funding.

23) Is ESL Distance Learning being cut?

A. We have heard that since ADA is not a prime motivation for class offerings that DL is being reduced.

24) Since ADA isn't being reported to the State anymore, does that mean the class size minimums don't matter?

A. The class size minimum is in the contract—that hasn't changed.

25) Please clarify "H" contracts.

A. It is supposed to be used in an "emergency" situation when the administration cannot find any other qualified teacher to staff a class. DACE has been abusing "H" contracts for years, as a way to give teachers hours above 18 without having to tenure them. UTLA has been working on this issue.

26) How will AEWG teachers be protected and at how many hours?

A. AEWG is a secondary program run through DACE that is separately funded from adult ed money.

27) If someone is tenured and wants to bump an AEWG teacher with fewer years but more hours, what rights does each teacher have?

A. Teachers do not bump other individual teachers. Principals are required to make assignments based on seniority and longevity. This may result in teachers with the least longevity not receiving assignments.

28) We were told our funding was to be based on the 2007-08 school year budget.

A. We've heard that Central Office has given principals their budgets and that they have been cut 30%, compared to 2008-09 budget. We hear this is in anticipation of perhaps further cuts that could come when the State revises its budget and has a larger deficit than anticipated.

POTPORRI

29) If summer school is cancelled (or if I'm not offered a position), will I be able to collect unemployment?

A. We're working on getting you that info.

30) Why are the cuts not a strike issue?

A. We can only strike on contract negotiations issues, and this isn't a contractual issue.

31) Should we be mobilizing our students to demonstrate?

A. Yes. At this point cuts to administration are minimal at best. The bulk of the 20% budget cuts are being balanced on the backs of classrooms and students. We believe this represents upside priorities and we think students would agree.

32) Which bill authorized the 20% cuts statewide?

A. It was a budget trailer bill agreed to in the "Big Five" budget deal in February.

33) Why weren't hearings held about the cuts to adult ed funding?

A. The state budget was passed after agreement was reached among the 'Big Five', and this was part of the budget deal.

34) Explain Tier 3.

A. Adult Ed is a categorical fund. Categorical funds were divided into 3 priority levels. We were put in Tier 3, meaning these programs took a 20% cut and school districts were given "flexibility" to spend the funds in any way they wished. By the way, most district superintendents around the state lobbied for this flexibility. See our website for more detailed handout on this issue.

35) Is LAUSD going to do away with Adult Ed programs?

A. The superintendent has stated that he does not intend to dismantle the Adult Ed program. However, some smaller districts around the state have decided to eliminate their entire adult ed programs.

36) Can tenured teachers take a year sabbatical?

A. You can take a leave—with no pay and no benefits and no STRS credit. It would not constitute a break in service if it were an approved leave.

37) What about the letters re tenure we wrote to our school board members? They were all referred to Ed Morris, from whom I received a canned response.

A. The school board members are aware of our problem re tenure. We've recently presented before the board on this issue and are currently lobbying board members. The issue remains unresolved.

38) Can we demand "sunshining" of displaced administrators'/advisors' longevity info?

A. Both UTLA and Chapter Chairs are entitled to longevity related info.