

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education March 2024 Agenda Item #04

## Subject

## Approval of the Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2024–27.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 requires the Governor, via the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB), and in coordination with WIOA core program offices, operated by the California Department of Education (CDE), the Employment Development Department (EDD), and the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), to submit a unified plan to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The CDE is responsible for the WIOA Title II: Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (Title II: AEFLA) programs. The CWDB and WIOA core programs collaboratively drafted the California WIOA State Plan 2024-2027. The 30-day public comment period began on January 15, 2024. Based on public comment, the plan will be revised, and the final version submitted to the DOL and ED before March 15, 2024. Failure to approve the modifications to the State Plan will result in the loss or delay of nearly $1 billion in federal funding, including just over $100 million in WIOA, Title II: AEFLA grant funds each year for the period from 2023–27.

## Recommendation

The CDE recommends that the SBE approve the “Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2024–2027” under the WIOA of 2014.

## Brief History of Key Issues

On July 22, 2014, President Obama signed into law the WIOA, which includes the reauthorization of Title II: AEFLA of 1998–2004. The WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, and support services to succeed in the modern labor market. The law will also encourage workforce development programs to help match employers with skilled workers needed to compete in the global economy. The WIOA requires states to plan across core programs and include this planning process in their unified or combined state plan modifications. California’s approved unified plan includes core programs operated by the CDE, the EDD, and the DOR. The core programs responsible under this law are:

* Dislocated Worker Adult Program and Youth Program (Title I of WIOA): Title I provides job search, education, and training activities for individuals seeking to gain or improve their employment prospects, and establishes the One-Stop delivery system, known as America’s Job Centers of California (AJCC). In addition, Title I of WIOA establishes the governing structure and the performance accountability for all programs authorized under WIOA.
* Title II: AEFLA is focused on assisting:
  + Adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and economic self-sufficiency;
  + Adults who are parents or family members to obtain the education and skills that are necessary to becoming full partners in the educational development of their children and lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their family;
  + Adults in attaining a secondary school diploma and in the transition to postsecondary education and training, including through career pathways; and
  + Immigrants and other individuals who are English language learners to improve their reading, writing, speaking and comprehension skills in English, and mathematics skills, and to acquire an understanding of the American system of government, individual freedom, and the responsibilities of citizenship.
* Wagner-Peyser Act Program (Title III): The Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 established a nationwide system of public employment offices, known as the Employment Service. The Employment Service seeks to improve the functioning of the nation's labor markets by bringing together individuals seeking employment with employers seeking workers. In 2014, the Wagner-Peyser Act was amended under Title III of WIOA. Specifically, the Employment Service under WIOA builds upon the previous workforce reforms, requires colocation of the employment service offices into the AJCCs, and aligns performance accountability indicators with other federal workforce programs.
* Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Title IV): This program is administered by the DOR. California works in partnership with consumers and other stakeholders to provide services and advocacy, resulting in employment, independent living, and equality for individuals with disabilities.

In California, the competitive Title II: AEFLA grant provides funding to 217 sub-grantees. Of these, 172 are adult education programs within a local educational agency or a county office of education, 13 are community-based organizations, 22 are community colleges (non-credit programs), 4 are libraries, 1 coalition of 5 local educational agencies and 1 community college, 1 joint powers authority, and 1 county sheriff’s office. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Department of Developmental Services, and the Department of State Hospitals are also sub-grantees of WIOA Title II funds.

The first California State Plan was approved by the DOL and ED in October 2016. The WIOA requires that states review their plans every two years and update their state plan strategies, based on changes in the labor market and economic conditions or other factors affecting the implementation of the state plan. It is required that the public be given 30 days to comment on the modified California State Plan. The public comment period ended on February 15, 2024. Based on public comment, the modified plan will be revised, and a final version submitted to the DOL and ED by the March 15, 2024, due date.

There are no policy changes in the modifications to the Title II: AEFLA component of the WIOA State Plan. The draft state plan may be accessed on the CWDB WIOA Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan (Draft) web page at https://cwdb.ca.gov/plans\_policies/2024-2027-state-plan/. (Link to be updated when available)

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

The SBE approved the “California’s Strategic Workforce Development Plan: Skills Attainment for Upward Mobility; Aligned Services for Shared Prosperity: California’s Workforce Development Plan” under the WIOA for program years 2016–20 in January 2016 and in March 2020. In March 2018 and 2022, the SBE approved the required modifications to the WIOA State Plan.

## Fiscal Analysis

As the largest state in the country, with the largest population targeted by the programs within the WIOA, California averages approximately 20 percent of the funds allocated to these federal programs. The CDE’s responsibility, which includes most of the programs within the WIOA, requires full legal and fiduciary management to execute these programs. This includes submitting all required documents and reports, along with meeting the timelines established by federal legislation. It is fiscally prudent for the SBE to approve the WIOA State Plan and assist the CDE with meeting its responsibility to other state agencies collaborating on the larger unified plan produced by the CWDB. This ensures the plan is submitted on time and does not jeopardize California’s funding for these vital programs.

**WIOA Program Year 2023–24 – Allotments for California**

* Title I - $439,341,590
* Title II - $116,770,172
* Title III - $81,499,358
* Title IV - $328,770,405

**Title I Programs**

* Youth Program - $121,524,137
* Adult Program - $117,278,022
* Dislocated Worker - $95,038,726

Failure to approve the WIOA State Plan will result in the loss or delay of nearly $1 billion in funding including just over $100 million in WIOA, Title II: AEFLA grant funds each year for the period 2024–27.

## Attachments

**Attachment 1:** Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2024–27. (31 pages)