

Livermore Adult Education Report

Background

Livermore Adult Education serves adults in Livermore and the surrounding community, working to improve and enrich their lives through education, training and personal development. We are committed to offering programs that provide lifelong educational opportunities and support services addressing the unique and evolving needs of adults in our community. Livermore Adult Education's goals and vision align with our District mission to ensure all students will have access and opportunities to develop the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world. We offer relevant learning experiences designed to help students acquire the necessary knowledge and skills needed to participate fully as productive citizens, employees, parents and family members.

Recall that with California's adoption of the Local Control Funding Formula, fiscal resources to support adult education were precarious until the California legislature passed AB 104 in 2015, establishing the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG) with funds specifically earmarked for adult education. In January 2019, AEBG was renamed the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) to reflect the ongoing commitment by the State of California to fund adult education. In addition to CAEP funds, Livermore Adult Education continues to receive federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds as well.

Status

At the end of the 2020-21 school year, it seemed that the critical days of the COVID-19 pandemic were behind us, and adult educators around the State of California were hopeful that those students who had stayed home during the 2019-20 school year would return to in-person instruction. With the resurgence of COVID-19 in late summer 2021, this was not to be. While Livermore Adult Education English as a Second Language (ESL) remained stable from 2020-21 to 2021-22, enrollment in other program areas declined. This is a reversal from the previous year when ESL enrollment declined while High School Equivalency (GED Preparation) and High School Diploma increased. This trend reflects enrollment patterns across the State.

Livermore Adult Education remains committed to digital literacy and remote learning opportunities for adult students. Remote learning presents a unique set of challenges, and many neighboring adult schools have begun to phase out remote learning. Mandated distance learning demonstrated that it is the model that works best for some students. It also very clearly demonstrated the digital divide. Many of LAE's students have minimal access to or experience with technology, increasing the potential barriers posed by continued distance learning. In order to address these barriers, LAE has made laptops available to all students. The decision to lend laptops instead of Chromebooks to adult students was based on the goal of helping adults prepare for the workplace. An adult entering the workforce is more likely to encounter a PC with Windows than a Chromebook.

Staffing challenges had a significant impact on Livermore Adult Education programming during 2021-22. Due to the inability to secure additional qualified staff, Livermore Adult Education was forced to reduce its programming schedule. The programming schedule was originally slated to have parallel in person and virtual classes both morning and evening. Ultimately, virtual classes were held only in the morning.

Livermore Adult Education partnered with LVJUSD YouthBuild: Project Hope, providing educational services for students over the age of 18 as well as construction math support.

Livermore Adult Education 2021 – 2022 Enrollment

Type of Class	Enrollment for 21-22	Percentage of 21-22 Enrollment	Funding Source
English as a Second Language (ESL)	104	71%	WIOA/CAEP
High School Equivalency (GED Prep)	19	13%	CAEP
IET (Integrated Education and Training)	5	3%	WIOA
Adult Basic Education	5	3%	WIOA/CAEP
High School Diploma	7	5%	WIOA/CAEP
ESL Citizenship Prep	7	5%	WIOA/CAEP
Total Enrollment	143		

Next Steps

For the upcoming 2022-23 school year, Livermore Adult Education (LAE) will once again be able to offer childcare for the young children of adult education students. Formerly known as “babysitting” LAE will offer age appropriate literacy instruction in the form of quality early childhood education. To complement and support the addition of quality early childhood education, LAE has been developing a Vocational ESL course leading to an early childhood assistant teacher credential that will be deployed in January 2023. This course is designed to provide a path for Early Childhood Educators seeking an alternative to the Las Positas College program. In order to promote program stability and reward teacher loyalty and longevity, Livermore Adult Education will offer some contracted teaching positions.

Fiscal Impact

Adult Education is funded primarily through the California Adult Education Program, the WIOA: Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and designated Local Control Funding Formula dollars.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

This item is informational only and requires no action be taken by the Board of Education.