

Date of Hearing: March 28, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Blanca Pacheco, Chair

ACR 42 (Pacheco) – As Introduced February 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Adult Education Week.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the week of April 6 through April 12, 2025, as Adult Education Week, and salutes the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs statewide for their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The first recorded adult education class in California was held in the basement of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer teacher for the class, later became a State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 2) Adult schools have been used on numerous occasions to assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and economic issues through job training programs during World War II, immigration reform of the 1980s, and most recently, the Great Recession.
- 3) Adult education in California overcame its biggest challenge as a result of the severe economic crisis that faced both the state and the nation in 2008-09. Funding that was previously reserved for adult education was redistributed to other levels of education in the state, resulting in many adult schools decreasing in size and some closing.
- 4) Most students served through adult education deal with illiteracy, poverty, and high unemployment, and are the most negatively impacted group when the state faces economic, social, and health challenges, most recently seen through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5) Sixty-five percent of adult learners enrolled in adult schools across California during the 2023–24 school year were between 25 and 54 years of age, making them very likely to have children in our public school system. The impact of adult education is felt across generations, particularly for early childhood learners who have been characterized as a priority of the Governor and the Legislature.
- 6) Adult schools provide programs in family literacy at elementary schools in conjunction with community-based organizations, recognizing that to break the cycle of illiteracy and to support educational equity for all our children, we must also focus on educating parents.
- 7) Adult schools in California are diverse places of learning for students, safe from discrimination and bullying that seek to support all students regardless of their ethnicity, race, faith, and orientation.
- 8) The week of April 6 through April 12, 2025, is observed as Adult Education Week, recognizing the unique accomplishments of California adult schools. The California Adult

Education Program celebrates over 10 years providing quality programs for adult learners, having been established in law in 2014.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Adult Education Administrators Association
California Council for Adult Education

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800