From:

Robert Willems
Owner and Managing Partner
Green Mountain Advisors, LLC
271 Nottingham Park
Manchester Center, VT 05255

Re: Adult Education and Literacy Network funding formula

Dear members of the Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations,

My name is Robert Willems, and I serve as a board member of Vermont Adult Learning.

I am writing to respectfully ask that you include the recommended language for Scenario 1 in the Agency of Education's report on adult education funding in the FY27 Budget.

Scenario 1 represents a fair, simple, and sustainable funding solution that ensures equitable access to adult education services across Vermont. It also aligns with Vermont's goals around proficiency-based education and moving away from seat time as the primary metric for determining student success.

Our students rely on predictable funding so they can complete high school credentials, improve English skills, and move toward family sustaining employment.

I have attached the AELN legislative handout for your reference. Please include the recommended language for Scenario 1 in the FY27 Budget.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of Vermont learners.

Best regards,

Robert Willems

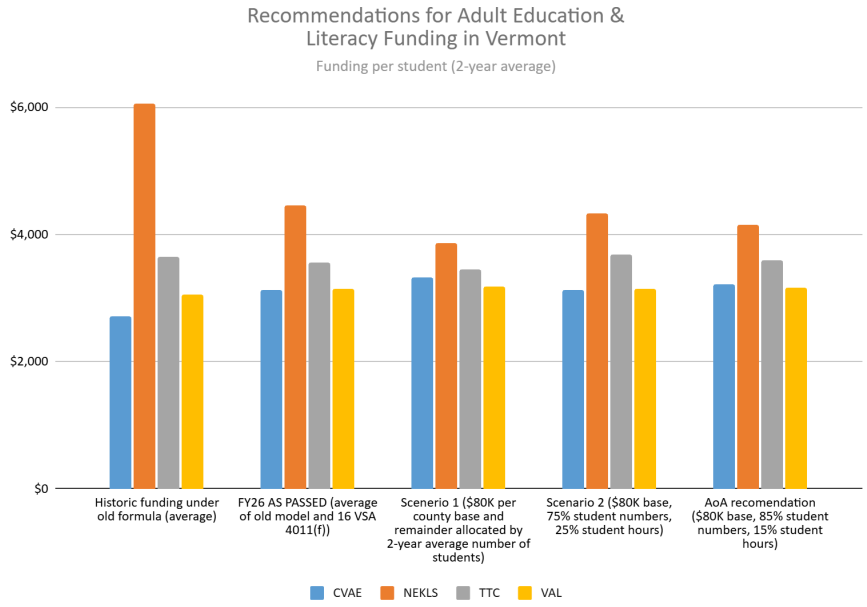
The Adult Education & Literacy Network asks the General Assembly to please support Scenario 1 in the legislative report: *Recommendations for Adult Education & Literacy Funding in Vermont.*

★ *Scenario 1 represents a **fair, simple, sustainable, and predictable** solution to adult education funding*
★ *Scenario 1 represents the solution that is the **most equitable for AEL students across the State***

We do not want to back track on progress by further complicating AEL funding with additional metrics that do not serve AEL staff or students. AEL providers serve Vermont's most vulnerable populations across the State. Whether it is Afghan refugees in Bennington, New Americans in Central Vermont, or adults who never went to high school in Burlington, the majority of AEL students statewide live in poverty and/or face significant barriers in life, regardless of where they live. To best serve all adult education students, we need to move toward ***greater*** equity in funding per student.

Funding per Student for Vermont's AEL Providers under Different Scenarios

Provider	Historic funding under old formula (average)	FY26 Funding per student	AEL Report, Scenario 1	AEL Report, Scenario 2	AOA Recommendation
NEKLS	$6,059	$4,676	**$3,869**	$4,334	$4,148
CVABE	$2,703	$2,999	**$3,329**	$3,124	$3,206
VAL	$3,049	$3,171	**$3,177**	$3,147	$3,159
TTC	$3,649	$3,471	**$3,452**	$3,673	$3,585



The AEL Network sincerely thanks the Vermont General Assembly for their attention to this issue.

Vermont's AEL providers generally do not support the Agency of Education's recommendation to continue to study the problem. ***We can implement a fair solution, now.***