February 10, 2026

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Waterbury, Vermont

As Director of Outreach and Workforce Development for Central Vermont Adult Education (CVAE) I am asking that you please support and include the language in "scenario 1," as presented in Agency of Education's report on adult education funding in the FY27 Budget. The goal of updating the funding allocations is to create a system that is fair, equitable, stable, and predictable, and "scenario 1" is the only one that meets these goals.

Over the years, CVAE students have been on the losing end of the allocation formula, often receiving 50-75% less per student than another provider. On a shoestring budget we have created a service model that, although not perfect, allows us to meet the yearly goals for student achievement set forth by the AOE. I note that the other scenarios bring in a metric of "student hours" that is not part of our tracking and goals with the VAOE. We are a proficiency-based system, not seat-time based.

Addition of student hours as a metric for allocations continues to penalize CVAE students. As mentioned above, we have developed a working service model based on historically inequitable allocations. As such, we have a very high student: teacher ratio that makes is impossible to have as high student hours as some other providers. Utilizing the "student hours" metric for allocations takes away our ability to increase staff and affects student hours. Scenario 1 is the only option that does not perpetuate a deleterious cycle.

I implore that you recommended language for Scenario 1 in the Agency of Education's report on adult education funding in the FY27 Budget. This is supported by 3 adult education providers who serve over 90% of the AEL students in Vermont. It is fair, equitable, and predictable, and best serves all AEL students in Vermont.

Thank you.

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The Adult Education & Literacy Network asks the General Assembly to please support <u>Scenario 1</u> in the legislative report: *Recommendations for Adult Education & Literacy Funding in Vermont.*
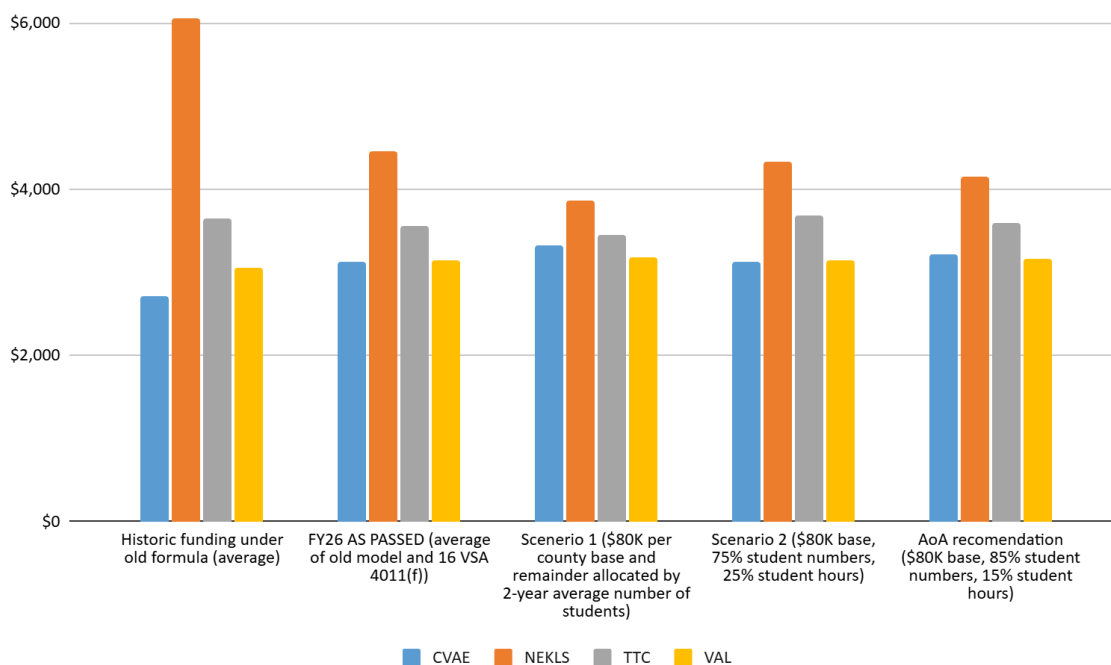
★ *Scenario 1 represents a **fair, simple, sustainable, and predictable** solution to adult education funding*
★ *Scenario 1 represents the solution that is the **most equitable for AEL students across the State***

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

Recommendations for Adult Education & Literacy Funding in Vermont

Funding per student (2-year average)

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.***