

Torlakson Sends Letter Supporting Adult Education

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Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, [has sent a letter](#) to all county and district superintendents cautioning them to think carefully about the importance and benefits of adult education before sweeping adult education funds and dismantling programs. Torlakson notes that the new mission statement of the California Department of Education says:

California will provide a world-class education for all students, from early childhood to adulthood. The Department of Education serves our state by innovating and collaborating with educators, schools, parents, and community partners. Together, as a team, we prepare students to live, work, and thrive in a highly connected world.

He also notes that "with minimal fiscal resources, adult education still produces long term and far reaching benefits." These include educating parents so that they can better support the education of their children, along with helping adults gain employment skills and advance their careers.

In conclusion, he states what all adult educators have been saying since adult education was put into the flexible funding category, "(o)nce a program such as this is dismantled, the extensive infrastructure and work that has gone into building this program cannot be readily recovered."