

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR ADULT EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUPS

*NOCRC advisory groups are subcommittees, representing each of the California adult education program areas – **ESL, CTE, DSS, Basic Skills/High School Diploma, and K-12 Student Success** – made up of representatives from consortium members. They were developed as part of the consortium’s regional comprehensive plan, and local needs, to strategize ways to address gaps in existing student needs. Advisory groups are comprised of faculty, staff, managers, and student services professionals from the consortium members that have a vested and expertise in a specific program area.*

The purpose of advisory groups is to generate ideas that eventually turn into strategy proposals, proposed action research activities, and projects aligned with the goals and objectives of California Adult Education Program (CAEP). They meet on a regular basis to discuss gaps in services within the region and come up with what they consider to be the most effective ways to address these gaps.

Basic Skills/High School Diploma: The Basic Skills/High School Diploma advisory group is committed to addressing the needs of adult students looking to get their high school diploma or GED, as well as those who have already received a diploma and are hoping to further their studies at a community college. The advisory group's current strategies provide alternative pathways to high school completion to adult students who do not have enough credits to graduate on time or who have already dropped out, and aids graduates in the transition to a community college.

Career Technical Education (CTE): The CTE advisory group develops and implements strategies to increase student awareness of Career Education programs, enhance student learning and student success, facilitate transition to post-secondary education, assist with job placement, and promote career success. In order to further support job placement and long-term career success, the CTE advisory group developed the position of Career Pathways Specialist to provide individualized career services to adult students and facilitate workshops on employment readiness topics such as resume writing and interview techniques, as well as employability topics including empathy, social intelligence, and adaptability.

Disability Support Services (DSS): The Disability Support Services (DSS) Advisory Committee provides guidance, feedback, and recommendations to the NOCRC Executive Committee for programs and services offered through DSS. DSS braids CAEP funding with other sources of funding to provide instructional programs and students services. Instructional programs lay the foundation for students who want to transition to other higher education programs, and to competitive, integrated employment (CIE). Many committee recommendations have provided direction to program development at NOCE. Examples of program development include neurodiversity labs on all three campuses, services that support inclusion in higher education (e.g., educational coaching, specialized counseling, etc.), and programs that support the employment of students who have disabilities.

English as a Second Language (ESL): The ESL Advisory Group is actively expanding and building upon a network of programs and services to help the regional ESL population easily transition into post-secondary education, enter or advance in the workplace, and/or increase community involvement. These services include increasing access to ESL and citizenship classes by offering Academic Success programs for transition into higher-level credit ESL as well as contextualized language learning paired with vocational training. NOCE ESL collaborates with local community partners to offer NOCE ESL classes and support services (including book vouchers, counseling, and laptop loans) to adult language learners throughout North Orange County.

K-12 Student Success: The K-12 Student Success Advisory group provides education and training services to parents, educators, and professionals working with elementary and secondary school students promote academic achievement in school. Most recently, the K-12 Student Success Advisory group has collaborated with regional partners to offer various Love & Logic® adult education classes and workshops throughout the region.

Student Services for Transition: The Student Services for Transition Advisory Group is focused on identifying and addressing regional needs related to student services and transition. This Advisory Group is unique because it is not tied to a specific CAEP program area but provides a place for collaboration and communication to address transition needs. Current strategies include a full-time counselor focused on transition, identifying and providing case management-type support to students through an Early Alert system, and Special Projects Manager on Student Engagement to increase progress, completion, and transition.

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