

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FULL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

October 8, 2025

The full meeting is available to view on the CWDB YouTube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Rlwjwvq_yY

Full meeting documents, public comments, agenda, and future meeting dates may be found on the [CWDB website](#).

Members Present in Sacramento:

- Chairperson Joanna Rees
- Alysia Bell
- Chancellor Sonya Christian, represented by designee Vice Chancellor Tony Cordova
- Jamil Dada
- Dir. Nancy Farias, represented by designee Javier Romero
- Dr. Angelo Farooq
- Jennifer Haley
- Hala Hijazi
- Stephen Monteros
- Janus Norman
- Nicole Rice
- Dir. Kimberly Rutledge, represented by designee Mark Erlichman
- Honorable Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo
- Jeremy Smith
- Bruce Stenslie

Members Present in San Francisco:

- Dean Fealk
- Leonard Gonzales
- Secretary Stewart Knox, represented by designee Abby Snay
- Gloria Young

Members Present in Southern California:

- Larry Frank
- Jason Haider
- Hilary Lentini
- Robert Redlo
- Avin Sharma
- Honorable Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
- Amelia Tyagi

CWDB Staff:

- Kaina Pereira, Executive Director
- Emily Sunahara, Deputy Director of Operations
- Myranda Love, Executive Analyst
- Ross Villegas, Communications Analyst
- Liz Steelman, Policy Unit Manager
- Brooke Barnum-Roberts, Chief Counsel
- Ben McDonald, Deputy Counsel & Board Meeting Clerk

AGENDA

- A. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Call to Order
- B. Discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - A. AI and the Future of Workforce
 - B. AI in Government
- C. Action Items
 - A. Approve July 9, 2025, Meeting Summary
 - B. Vote on Local Workforce Board Regional Plans
 - C. Vote on Local Workforce Board Local Plans
 - D. Vote on Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification
- D. Updates and Discussion
 - A. Updates and Discussion
 - a. Labor & Workforce Development Agency
 - b. Budget Report
 - c. Legislative Report
 - d. California Jobs First
 - e. Eligible Training Provider List Workgroup Report
 - f. Advisory Groups
 - g. Local Board Engagement
 - h. State Rehabilitation Council Report
 - i. CWDB Meetings in 2026

E. General Public Comment

F. Adjournment

1. Opening Remarks

A. Roll Call & Call to Order

- a. Board Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 10:06 am.
- b. CWDB Deputy Counsel conducted a roll call and found 26 members present and advised the Chair that a quorum was present.
- c. Board Chair welcomed and introduced newly appointed Board Member, Alysia Bell, and recognized her extensive background in workforce development and education.

B. No public comment.

2. Discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

A. AI and the Future of Workforce

- a. The Board held an extensive conversation about AI's transformative impact on the workforce. Panelists included: Naveen Chaddha, Mayfield Fund; Chase Lochmiller, Crusoe Energy Systems; Anton Korinek, University of Virginia; and Meredith Lee, University of California, Berkeley.

B. AI in Government

- a. The board held a detailed conversation on how AI is being integrated into public education and workforce strategies statewide. Panelists included: Chancellor Sonya Chistian, California Community Colleges; Livia Shmavonian, Deputy Cabinet Secretary/ Senior Advisor for Workforce and Economic Development, Governor's Office; Ben Hyman, University of California, Los Angeles; Meredith Lee, University of California, Berkeley; Diane Tavenner, Futre.me; Till von Wachter, University of California, Los Angeles.

C. No public comment.

3. Action Items

A. Approve July 9, 2025, Meeting Summary

- a. The Chair motioned to approve July 9, 2025, Meeting Summary prepared by CWDB staff, and it was seconded.
- b. Vote Taken: Approve July 9, 2025, Meeting Summary
 - i. Yes: Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Tony Cordova, Jamil Dada, Dir. Nancy Farias represented by designee Javier Romero, Dean Fealk, Larry Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by designee Abby Snay, Hilary Lentini, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Robert Redlo, Chairperson Joanna Rees, Nicole Rice, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Mark

Erlichman, Avin Sharma, Jeremy Smith, Bruce Stenslie, Amelia Tyagi, and Gloria Young.

ii. No: None

iii. Abstentions: Alysia Bell and Dr. Angelo Farooq

c. Motion to approve July 9, 2025, Meeting Summary passed.

d. No public comment.

B. Vote on Local Workforce Board Regional Plans

a. Staff presented on regional plans and aligning resources and investments across 15 planning units. The Chair motioned to approve the Local Workforce Board Regional Plans, and it was seconded.

b. Vote Taken: Approve Local Workforce Board Regional Plans

i. Yes: Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Tony Cordova, Jamil Dada, Dir. Nancy Farias represented by designee Javier Romero, Dean Fealk, Larry Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by designee Abby Snay, Hilary Lentini, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Robert Redlo, Chairperson Joanna Rees, Nicole Rice, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Mark Erlichman, Avin Sharma, Jeremy Smith, Bruce Stenslie, Amelia Tyagi, and Gloria Young, Alysia Bell, and Dr. Angelo Farooq.

ii. No: None

iii. Abstentions: None

c. Motion to approve Local Workforce Board Regional Plans passed.

d. No public comment.

C. Vote on Local Workforce Board Local Plans

a. Staff presented local operational plans. Several plans that required additional documentation were deferred for finalization at a future meeting. The Chair motioned to approve the Local Workforce Board Local plans, and it was seconded.

b. Vote Taken: Approve Local Workforce Board Local Plans

i. Yes: Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Tony Cordova, Jamil Dada, Dir. Nancy Farias represented by designee Javier Romero, Dean Fealk, Larry Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by designee Abby Snay, Hilary Lentini, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Robert Redlo, Chairperson Joanna

Rees, Nicole Rice, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Mark Erlichman, Avin Sharma, Jeremy Smith, Bruce Stenslie, Amelia Tyagi, and Gloria Young, Alysia Bell, and Dr. Angelo Farooq.

ii. No: None

iii. Abstentions: None

c. Motion to approve Local Workforce Board Local Plans passed.

d. No public comment.

D. Vote on Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification

a. Staff presented on local area designation and local board recertification. Several local board applications that required additional documentation were deferred for finalization at a future meeting. The Chair motioned to approve the Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification, and it was seconded.

b. Vote Taken: Approve Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification

i. Yes: Chancellor Sonya Christian represented by designee Vice Chancellor Tony Cordova, Jamil Dada, Dir. Nancy Farias represented by designee Javier Romero, Dean Fealk, Larry Frank, Leonard Gonzales, Jason Haider, Hala Hijazi, Secretary Stewart Knox represented by designee Abby Snay, Hilary Lentini, Stephen Monteros, Janus Norman, Robert Redlo, Chairperson Joanna Rees, Nicole Rice, Dir. Kimberly Rutledge represented by designee Mark Erlichman, Avin Sharma, Jeremy Smith, Bruce Stenslie, Amelia Tyagi, and Gloria Young, Alysia Bell, and Dr. Angelo Farooq.

ii. No: None

iii. Abstentions: None

c. Motion to approve Local Area Subsequent Designation and Local Board Recertification passed.

d. No public comment.

4. Updates and Discussion

A. Labor & Workforce Development Agency

a. The Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) provided updates on California's Master Plan for Career Education and ongoing regional pilot programs focused on opportunity youth in healthcare. LWDA also discussed progress on the Career Passport Credential Registry. Updates were provided on addressing CalFresh

work requirements and workforce interventions being developed in coordination with local regions to support affected populations.

b. No public comment.

B. Budget Report

a. No new WIOA legislation has been authorized since the previous meeting. However, the state budget includes \$10 million in allocations for justice-involved programming and \$19.5 million for healthcare-related training grants, both of which are in the final stages of award distribution.

b. No public comment.

C. Legislative Report

a. Staff provided an overview of relevant workforce-related legislation, including Assembly Bill 338 on wildfire related workforce development needs and Senate Bill 638 establishing the California Education Interagency Council.

b. No public comment.

D. Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Workgroup Report

a. The Board received a report on the ETPL Workgroup about modernization efforts intended to reduce administrative burdens, allow new training program exceptions, simplify data reporting, and automate the integration of community college training data.

b. Public Comment

i. Eight online comments. See Page 8.

ii. In-Person Comment in Southern California – [3:49:02](#)

E. Advisory Groups

a. The Board acknowledged the conclusion of the ETPL Advisory Group's work and discussed the potential formation of new advisory groups, including one focused specifically on Artificial Intelligence and Workforce Innovation.

b. No public comment.

F. Local Board Engagement and California Jobs First

a. The Executive Director summarized recent regional tours that engaged local workforce boards, educational partners, and business leaders to identify best practices and address regional challenges. Plans were announced for ongoing monthly convenings and deeper discussions on critical topics such as AI and automation.

b. No public comment.

G. CWDB Meetings in 2026

a. Future full board meetings were announced for April 8, July 8, and September 9, 2026. Monthly meetings will be scheduled to provide regional updates and thematic discussions throughout the year.

b. No public comment.

H. State Rehabilitation Council Report

a. Board Member Hilary Lentini provided a report on the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

b. No public comment.

5. General Public Comments

A. 4:02:40 – [Sacramento Public Comment](#)

B. 4:05:45 – [Sacramento Public Comment](#)

6. Adjournment

A. All CWDB business having concluded, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

CWDB October 8, 2025 Board Meeting Public Comments

Public Comment

CWDB - Agenda item 4e - ETPL Reform

October 8, 2015

Good morning, Chair Rees and members of the California Workforce Development Board.

My name is Adele McClain. Please accept my testimony on behalf of Apple Valley Adult School.

My testimony has two main purposes: first, to thank you for your ongoing support, and second, to highlight the critical work still needed to reform the ETPL.

Just over a year ago, WDBs, Community Colleges, Adult Schools, and ROPs from across the state called for ETPL reform, submitting 96 pages of public comment at the August 2024 CWDB meeting. Since then, a statewide ETPL workgroup, in partnership with CWA, championed SB 275, and we are grateful for the progress to date. With EDD's upcoming directive, important changes will soon be in place.

But the most impactful reform is still ahead of us. California must request an **initial eligibility waiver** for publicly accredited Community Colleges, Adult Schools, ROPs, and Universities. These institutions already undergo rigorous state and federal accreditation. Forcing them through duplicative ETPL approvals only creates unnecessary barriers—barriers that limit access for job seekers and stall our state's workforce pipeline.

This waiver is essential. It would immediately unlock a statewide network of high-quality, affordable, publicly accredited training programs. It would expand choices for job seekers, align more closely with employer demand, and deliver greater equity for the communities who depend on public education pathways.

California educates one-fifth of the nation's community college students. If any state should lead on this reform, it's us. Job seekers, employers, and our economy is counting on us!

Thank you for your continued leadership and helping us move this urgent reform forward.

Public Comment
CWDB - Agenda item 4e - ETPL Reform
October 8, 2025

Good morning, Chair Rees and members of the California Workforce Development Board. My name is Christy Smith. Please accept my testimony on behalf of Mendocino-Lake Community College District.

My testimony has two main purposes: first, to thank you for your ongoing support, and second, to highlight the critical work still needed to reform the ETPL.

Just over a year ago, WDBs, Community Colleges, Adult Schools, and ROPs from across the state called for ETPL reform, submitting 96 pages of public comment at the August 2024 CWDB meeting. Since then, a statewide ETPL workgroup, in partnership with CWA, championed SB 275, and we are grateful for the progress to date. With EDD's upcoming directive, important changes will soon be in place.

But the most impactful reform is still ahead of us. California must request an **initial eligibility waiver** for publicly accredited Community Colleges, Adult Schools, ROPs, and Universities. These institutions already undergo rigorous state and federal accreditation. Forcing them through duplicative ETPL approvals only creates unnecessary barriers—barriers that limit access for job seekers and stall our state's workforce pipeline.

This waiver is essential. It would immediately unlock a statewide network of high-quality, affordable, publicly accredited training programs. It would expand choices for job seekers, align more closely with employer demand, and deliver greater equity for the communities who depend on public education pathways.

California educates one-fifth of the nation's community college students. If any state should lead on this reform, it's us. Job seekers, employers, and our economy is counting on us!

Thank you for your continued leadership and helping us move this urgent reform forward.

Thank you,



Christy Pedroncelli Smith
Dean of Career Education

Mendocino College

Pronouns: she/her

A guest on traditional Pomo land

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Public Testimony - Agenda Section 4e

Date: October 8, 2025

From: Jessica Daugherty,
Principal, Cause IMPACTS Consulting &
Regional Organizer, Ventura County Workforce Development Board

Attn: Members of the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB).

I am writing in regard to CWDB Agenda Item 4e- about ETPL. Over the past 2 years, our statewide ETPL work group has collaborated to identify what the current challenges are to the ETPL system and processes. Along the way, we [developed recommendations](#) for how to improve the program and access to essential training dollars across the state. As part of this effort, the California Workforce Association (CWA) worked with us to champion SB 275 which included some of the recommendations **but not the most impactful.**

OUR ASK:

I am writing today to ask for your advocacy and support uplifting our [number one priority for ETPL](#) reform that can have HUGE impact and uplift California as a model across the nation.

Please recommend that the state of California request an ETPL initial eligibility waiver for public accredited California Community Colleges, Adult Schools, Regional Occupational Centers/Programs, and Universities. This will put thousands of accredited programs onto the ETPL, providing employers and jobseekers more opportunities to choose from and reducing administrative costs!

The ETPL process currently requires institutions and programs that have already been given state approval through a rigorous accreditation process, to go through an **additional** round of approval prior to being listed on the ETPL. This is additional bureaucracy that is wasteful, administratively burdensome, and a barrier to access for those who need these training dollars the most! Currently, public accredited community colleges, adult schools and Regional Occupational Centers have already undergone an extensive accreditation process for their institutional operations and academic programs. Community Colleges are accredited by the [Accrediting Commission of School \(ACS\)](#) or the [Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges](#) (ACCJC). Further, Adult Schools and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs are accredited by the [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#) (WASC) or dually accredited by WASC and the Council on Occupational Education (COE).

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE:

Over the past ten years, my social impact consulting firm has worked with dozens of Workforce Development Boards, Adult Schools, and CC Districts. I have seen first hand the hoops that training providers have to go through to get onto the ETPL list and many do not do so because they do not have the internal administrative capacity to fill out the endless paperwork. This directly impacts employers and jobseekers who then have a limited list of training to choose from. In many regions, the ETPL includes only dead-end jobs that do not pay a living wage nor

offer career progression- such as truck drivers. This is unacceptable as it further exacerbates the lack of quality jobs and tracks people into positions with no economic mobility.

Job seekers and employers both need us to request this waiver. So, **please help us get California to request an ETPL initial eligibility waiver for public accredited California Community Colleges, Adult Schools, Regional Occupational Centers/Programs, and Universities.**

Sincerely,

Jessica Nolan Daugherty
Principal | Cause IMPACTS

cell: 714.390.6301

e-mail: jessica@causeimpacts.com

www.causeimpacts.com

Public Comment

CWDB - Agenda item 4e - ETPL Reform

October 8, 2015

Good morning, Chair Rees and members of the California Workforce Development Board.

My name is Israel Dominguez. Please accept my testimony on behalf of the Saddleback College Economic and Workforce Development department.

My testimony has two main purposes: first, to thank you for your ongoing support, and second, to highlight the critical work still needed to reform the ETPL.

Just over a year ago, WDBs, Community Colleges, Adult Schools, and ROPs from across the state called for ETPL reform, submitting 96 pages of public comment at the August 2014 CWDB meeting. Since then, a statewide ETPL workgroup, in partnership with CWA, championed SB 275, and we are grateful for the progress to date. With EDD's upcoming directive, important changes will soon be in place.

But the most impactful reform is still ahead of us. California must request an **initial eligibility waiver** for publicly accredited Community Colleges, Adult Schools, ROPs, and Universities.

These institutions already undergo rigorous state and federal accreditation. Forcing them through duplicative ETPL approvals only creates unnecessary barriers—barriers that limit access for job seekers and stall our state's workforce pipeline.

This waiver is essential. It would immediately unlock a statewide network of high-quality, affordable, publicly accredited training programs. It would expand choices for job seekers, align

more closely with employer demand, and deliver greater equity for the communities who depend on public education pathways.

California educates one-fifth of the nation's community college students. If any state should lead on this reform, it's us. Job seekers, employers, and our economy is counting on us!

Thank you for your continued leadership and helping us move this urgent reform forward.

Best Regards,

Israel Dominguez

Israel Dominguez

Director, Economic & Workforce Development.

Dear Workforce Development Board,

I am writing to respectfully urge the inclusion of an initial eligibility waiver for publicly accredited institutions—such as Community Colleges, Adult Schools, Regional Occupational Programs (ROPs), and Universities—so that they may be automatically added to the Eligible Training Provider List.

Institutions like the Community College where I am employed already undergo a rigorous program approval process, beginning at the local level and culminating with review and approval by the State Chancellor's Office. Requiring an additional, duplicative vetting process places undue burdens on educational entities that are already deeply committed to serving vulnerable student populations.

Streamlining this process is in the best interest of both students and their future employers.

Therefore, I strongly encourage you to include the initial eligibility waiver in the provisions of the planned directive scheduled for release in October.

Sincerely,

Denise Foley

Orange California

Public Testimony - Agenda Section 4e

October 8, 2025

From: Lora Jorgensen, Statewide ETPL Workgroup Chair

Good morning Chair Rees, and Members of the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB).

I'm Lora Jorgensen, Bay Area Community College Consortia, Regional Director of Workforce Partnership and Chair of the Statewide External Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Workgroup. For the past 20 months, I have been leading a statewide working group that collectively identified the current challenges with ETPL and then identified comprehensive reforms that would improve the system, and then advocated for changes.

My testimony today has two main purposes: Remind policy makers how we got here and what's still needed to reform ETPL.

How we got here

Just over a year ago, Workforce Development Boards (WDBs), Community Colleges (CCs), Adult Schools and Regional Educational Programs (ROPsd) from across the state called for ETPL reform. So much that [96 pages of public comment were collected](#) at the 8/24/2024 CWDB Meeting.

Since then, our workgroup in partnership with the California Workforce Association (CWA) have championed SB 275 as our initial advocacy focus. Now, the Employment Development Department (EDD) has agreed to issue a new ETPL Directive in October implementing all of the changes in a directive that we sought to attain via SB275.

So, our ETPL workgroup would like to thank CWDB for helping us achieve this progress to date AND, I'm here today to remind the CWDB that the most impactful ETPL reform has NOT BEEN addressed.

What's still needed:

Our [number one priority for ETPL](#) reform is for the state of California to **request an ETPL initial eligibility waiver for public accredited California Community Colleges, Adult Schools, Regional Occupational Centers/Programs, and Universities.** In short, ensure that courses that are already publicly accredited are offerings that people can use ETPL funding (WIOA) for. This essential reform would allow job seekers across the state to have access to this comprehensive network of vital training programs.

Currently, public accredited community colleges, adult schools and Regional Occupational Centers have already undergone an extensive accreditation process for their institutional operations and academic programs. Community Colleges are accredited by the [Accrediting Commission of School \(ACS\)](#) or the [Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges \(ACCJC\)](#). Further, Adult Schools and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs are accredited by the [Western Association of Schools and Colleges \(WASC\)](#) or dually accredited by WASC and the Council on Occupational Education (COE).

The current problem we need to solve is that the ETPL process currently requires institutions and programs that have already been given state approval through a more rigorous process to go through an additional round of approval prior to being listed on the ETPL. One fifth of community college students in the United States are in CA, so if any state should have a waiver for community college programming (and the like) it's California. Job seekers and employers both need us to close this gap and close it soon; our economy is counting on it.

Lora Jorgensen (she, her, hers)

Regional Director, Workforce Partnerships

Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC)

C: 907.830.4180 | lora@baccc.net | baccc.net

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Public Comment

CWDB - Agenda item 4e - ETPL Reform

October 8, 2015

Good morning, Chair Rees and members of the California Workforce Development Board. My name is Beth Cutter and I am the Director at Castro Valley Adult and Career Education, an Adult School in the Bay Area.

I want to start by thanking you for your ongoing support of high quality training programs for California adults. With EDD's upcoming directive, important changes will soon be in place, however there is significant work still needed to reform the ETPL.

California must request an **initial eligibility waiver** for publicly accredited Community Colleges, Adult Schools, ROPs, and Universities. These institutions already undergo rigorous state and federal accreditation. Forcing them through duplicative ETPL approvals only creates unnecessary barriers—barriers that limit access for job seekers and stall our state's workforce pipeline.

This waiver is essential. It would immediately unlock a statewide network of high-quality, **affordable**, publicly accredited training programs. It would expand choices for job seekers, align more closely with employer demand, and deliver greater equity for the communities who depend on public education pathways.

Thank you for your continued leadership and helping us move this urgent reform forward.

Beth Cutter

Director

Castro Valley Adult and Career Education



<http://www.cvadult.org/>

(510) 886-1000



"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— Maya Angelou

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