



Barstow Area Consortium for Adult Education
Board Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 (8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)
(*Materials in Board Packet)

In-Person at Barstow Community College – CTE Bldg. Z Conference Room
2700 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311

Website: <https://www.barstow.edu/bacae>

PLEASE NOTE: Agenda related documents distributed to the BACAE Board for the Board Meeting may be viewed in the President’s Office at Barstow Community College, 2700 Barstow Rd, Barstow, CA 92311. Individuals who require special accommodation, including but not limited to an American sign language interpreter, accessible seating, or documentation in accessible formats, should contact the BACAE Coordinator at erivera@barstow.edu at least two days before the meeting date.

Call to Order:

Attending:	Voting Member	Voting Member	Attendee
Baker Valley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Milan Stijepovic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Esposito (Z)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barstow CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eva Bagg	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Rodden	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Alvarado (Z)		
Barstow AS	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Godfrey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas Beaton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Colleoc
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deanna Swearingen		
Silver Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Youskievicz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brice Scott	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consortium Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elena Rivera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karl Corbo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. *Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2025 (No Meeting held in January and February 2026)
Motioned to approve by D. Beaton; 2nd by Dr. E. Bagg

2. Public Comment – Public comment will be allowed on any topic relevant to the BACAE. Pursuant to BACAE Policy, comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Please begin your comment by stating your name.
Nobody was present for public comment.

3. Closed Session – *None Requested.*

4. Guest Speakers – *None.*

5. Consortium Director’s Report

5.1 Director’s Updates

- New Hire: Karl Corbo, Student Services Technician

E. Rivera welcomed new hire to Barstow Community College Karl Corbo, E. Rivera stated that in the future Karl will help to support the consortium when it comes to CASAS and TOPSPro software. E. Rivera also stated that she is in the process of hiring for a new FKCE Secretary.

5.2 CAEP Upcoming Deadlines & Other Dates –

- Feb 28: Preliminary allocations for 2026-27 and 2027-28 released by this date.
- Mar 1: 25/26 Member expense report is due in NOVA. (Q2)
- Mar 31: End of Q3
- Mar 31: 25/26 Member Expense Report certified by Consortia in NOVA (Q2)
- Apr 30: Student Data due in TOPSPro (Q3)
- May 2: CFAD for 2026-27 due in NOVA
- Jun 1: 25/26 Member Expense Report due in NOVA (Q3)
- Jun 30: 25/26 Member Expense Report certified by Consortia in NOVA (Q3) *
- Jun 30: End of Q4
- Jul 15: Student Data due in TOPSPro (Q4) FINAL

E. Rivera discussed updates related to CAEP and deadline upcoming. Districts were asked to clear all errors on NOVA. Q3 ends on March 31st, 2026. If possible, all districts are asked to complete CASAS pre-tests by March 31st. K-12 must do CASAS testing; College is optional. Post-testing for CASAS needs to be done by June 30th, 2026. Data must be submitted via Wizard platform. When the data is submitted, BACAE needs a copy of the report as well.

5.3 Member Program Update: Barstow Adult School – **BUSD**

- *Adult Basic Education (ABE)/ Adult Secondary Education (ASE) – High School Diploma/GED HS Equivalence*
 - *How Many Students Registered online? 496*
 - *How many need to CASAS pre- test? 140 (all have been contacted). Several on this list inquired about GED/ESL and were referred to BCC.*
 - *Number of students currently enrolled? 219*
 - *Number of students who need to post-test (recent graduates and students with 70+ hours) 23*
 - *Number of graduates to date 65*
- *Names of Instructors: Amy Bawden, Emily Escajeda, Ramiro Alexander-Duchesne, Rey Capales, Mark Calderon*
- *Schedule/Misc. Comments: GED Test center will be open June/July but only one Saturday each month*
- *Graduation Date: May 16th at BCC*
 - *English as a Second Language (ESL), English Literacy and Civics Education (EL Civics)*
 - *How many students? N/A we are not offering this year*
 - *Names of Instructors*
- *Schedule/Misc. Comments*
 - *Adults with Disabilities (AWD)*
 - *Workshops N/A*

- *Resources/Services we do provide one on one support and modified curriculum once the instructor meets with the student*
- *Activities N/A*
- *K12 Succes – Supporting adults to assist elementary and secondary school children succeed academically. N/A*
- *Short Term CTE - BCC N/A*
- *Non-Credit Certificates*
 - *Workforce Re-entry - BCC N/A refer to BCC*
- *Activities*
 - *Pre-Apprenticeship – Occupation Training Programs - N/A refer to BCC*
 - *Student Resources and Services Provided*
 - *Provide ID card for city transportation*
 - *Provide assistance with the BCC application*
 - *Provide ED plan and assistance with scheduling classes*
- *Adult Ed. School Events/Outreach - none planned at this time*
- *CASAS/TOPSPRO/TABE - All staff have CASAS and TE accounts*
- *Professional Development - COABE/CCAEC/CASAS SI (a few staff will attend these conferences). Submitted GED conference request*
- *Support Needed: Not at this time*
- *Student Success Story/Staff Feature for Website: Currently reaching out to students*
- *Other:*

E. Rivera and M. Colleoc made a few comments regarding the safety and security of Barstow Adult School. Security Gates have been installed for staff. Barstow Adult School is currently working on a video marketing their program. It was asked that demographics be included along with the video to show the diversity of the school being served.

E. Rivera reported that she has received five calls from local Barstow parents inquiring about GED for students under the age of 18. Elena redirecting them to the Adult School if under 18 years of age.

5.4 Member Program Update: Barstow Community College - **BCC**

Dr. E. Bagg reported that Barstow Community College was awarded \$750,000 in mental health funds for rural communities. It might take a while to get these funds though. Dr. Bagg also reported having conversations with Silver Valley USD regarding future expansion of dual enrollment students from their district.

Dr. L. Alvarado reported that she is currently working on grants for a few programs such as drones, artificial intelligence and nursing. She was excited to share that Barstow Community College had just graduated their first non-credit cohort of CNA graduates. 10 of 10 passed their requirements for state licensure. Dr. L. Alvarado also reported that VEEP just graduated from their first class of students at the college. Finally, Dr. L. Alvarado shared that Workforce Development moved their offices from the CTE Admin Building to the TSLC Building at the

college to better serve students. They have begun to offer workshops and eventually MBTI assessments.

E. Rivera and Dr. E. Bagg shared that the college recently sent out a community mailer sharing the needs of the college and asking for future input through a QR code. The district is considering a future bond potentially based on BCC board approval. E. Rivera has been asking the community to participate in providing feedback.

E. Rivera shared information regarding ESL Classes at the college, resources for the community such as her new book club, a flyer of the MAP Program in town (helping those impacted by the criminal justice system), and a partnership between Vibrant Villages and FKCE for some upcoming classes promoted by community partners.

E. Rivera also shared that she has had quite a few community outreach meetings in the past few months to include meeting with the head of Barstow Unified HR about paraeducator roles, meeting with SBC transitional assistance regarding workforce development and adult education classes, etc. E. Rivera has also met with Child & Family Services regarding FKCE and growing our partnership.

E. Rivera reports 56 GED Students enrolled in the Barstow College GED Program; She began meeting with students 1:1 for further engagement. Karl will work on outreach and engagement with GED Students in the coming months. Working to update our community resource guide as well. E. Rivera reports that GED students are really interested in furthering their education in the trades, medical, business and drug/alcohol sectors as it's been reported.

E. Rivera made a comment that BACAE needs to be notified of closing dates for all adult schools that might be closed partially through the summer so that way we can all coordinate which centers are open for students.

5.5 Member Program Update: **Baker Valley USD**

E. Rivera and M. Colleoc are working to coordinate a time to come out to Baker or virtually do career exploration & counseling with adult education students.

M. Stijepovic reported they are working on bridging the gap and barriers regarding distance for Baker students.

Dr. L. Alvarado reported she is working with the center of excellence for virtual programs that can help advance students in the Baker area.

Dr. M. Esposito reported that it would be wonderful if Victor Valley Transit could run a bus between Barstow and Baker once or twice per day. It would really help the community overall. Dr. Esposito, Dr. Bagg and E. Rivera to have a future conversation with VVTA regarding any possibilities present.

5.6 Member Program Update: **Silver Valley USD**

B. Scott reports they are working on cleaning things up in NOVA; They have 60 active students and 8 graduates currently. They are making sure to complete Pre and Post CASAS testing. They

have a lot of students interested overall in the Adult Education programs. Silver Valley USD will be graduating on May 18th at 6pm.

E. Rivera made a comment that the Newberry Springs Family Center inquired about ESL for their area students. E. Scott and E. Rivera will find a possible way to connect with the group soon.

5.7 BCC Fiscal Agent Report: By T. Walker

Materials in Board Packet. Submitted by A. Felton.

5.8 Website, Marketing & Social Media Update: By A. Paniagua

Materials in Board Packet. Submitted by A. Paniagua.

E. Rivera requested testimonials and updates from each district for marketing and social media purposes for the consortium.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 [¶]CAEP Preliminary Allocations Memo FY 2026-27 – February 20, 2026

6.2 [¶]CAEP Preliminary Allocations Schedule FY 2026-27

*E. Rivera reported no cuts to funding for 2026-2027 according to current CAEP Projections. Districts need to submit CFAD in Nova by May 2nd, 2026. E. Rivera also requested that all COLA funds go directly to the consortia for use. This would help to fund salaries, software and outreach for the consortia. After some discussion by board members, it was proposed that discussion on potential funding changes take place at the next working group meeting scheduled for **March 27th, 2026, at 9am**. The overall MOU will be discussed during this time including funding for the consortia.*

7. Action Items

7.1 None

8. Announcements

8.1 2025-2026 BACAE Board Meeting Dates & Location
Meetings to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 8:30 to 10:30am

February 11, 2026
March 11, 2026
April 8, 2026 ; April 16, 2026
May 13, 2026
June 10, 2026

April meeting has been moved from April 8, 2026, to April 16, 2026. All districts have agreed to change the date due to scheduling conflicts. Time will remain the same.

8.2 2025-2026 – BACAE Working Group Meetings

March 27, 2026
April 24, 2026
May 29, 2026
June 26, 2026

8.3 Conferences/Webinars

- **Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference** – April 12-15, 2026, in Indianapolis, IN.
Register at <https://www.coabe.org/coabe-2026>
- **California Council for Adult Education (CCAЕ) State Conference 2026** – April 30-May 2, 2026, in San Diego, CA
- **CASAS National Summer Institute** – June 15-18, 2026 – Hyatt Regency in Orange County
Register at <https://www.casas.org/training-and-support/SI>
(Registration starts on January 12, 2026)
- **2026 GED National Conference** – July-31, 2026 – Atlanta, GA

9. Adjournment: *Motion to approve by M. Stijepovic; 2nd by B. Scott. Meeting Adjourned at 10:40am.*