



# Napa Valley Adult Education Consortium Metaphor

## Napa Valley Adult Education Consortium River Metaphor Explanation

- The Napa River runs through the entire County and serves as inspiration for a coordinated response to addressing adult educational and training needs. Metaphorically, sitting on each side of the Napa River are the two adult education institutions, Napa Valley Adult Ed and Napa Valley College.
- The student, the focus of the work of the Adult Education Block Grant, enters the river at various places. The executive summary describes the profile of both sets of students. Many start from the feeder streams of secondary education, but can jump in from the piers or coves that are our community partners as well. They may come into the water from either bank...the Adult Education side or the Community College side.

The student (swimmer) also has various skill levels and endurance at the start of the swim. They need knowledge, skills and abilities to make it to the end of the river.

Anywhere the students enter, they are given a map of the river and their course based on their skills and needs when they enter, and their goals along the way and at the end. This map shows them which pennants or milestones they need to swim or navigate by in order to reach the **goal**.

- The benchmarks they pass along the way are the knowledge they acquire in both institutions. They are the classes they take based on their assessment and their educational plan. The Adult Education Block Grant is about improving and making more relevant the content of these classes.

The Adult Education Block Grant is also about building a system that helps the swimmers navigate more quickly along their way, accelerated learning strategies, project based and contextualized learning as well as individual assistance and customized educational and career planning.

- The river bottom and sides represent the institutional infrastructure needed to hold the river in place and make the swim strong and steady. These rocks and sand are the icons for the infrastructure of the Adult Education and Napa College systems. They include the governing bodies, the administration, the faculty and faculty development, the facility, the technology, common metrics and student outcomes, and the student body, all of which will be improved, enhanced, informed by the work of the Adult Education Block Grant.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan serves to make systemic changes that support alignment of educational/career pathways, facilitate transitions and accelerate students toward their goals. These institutional changes are the bridges (the icon for transitions) needed for students' successful transitions to postsecondary education or the workplace. Bridges are the links that ease the transition from each institution to the other, allowing the students to move freely between the institutions as needed.

- Barriers and blocks can present themselves in the river, slowing or halting the swim. There are resting stops along the way, both in the river (buoys that are the icon for counseling, for tutoring and mentoring), and out (the community based services that are our partner organizations in the AB 86 effort whose icon are the coves along the river).
- The river bottom and sides are made stronger through the improvements made to the infrastructure of this collaborative effort, assisting the swimmer in meeting the final goals of certificates, diplomas, advanced degrees, jobs, career pathways and lifelong learning.