

State Policy and Advocacy Update

(Provided by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Information current as of June 1, 2023).

STATE ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

The Chancellor's Office continues to engage in legislative advocacy and build a broad coalition of support for our sponsored legislation, which will modernize workforce education and ensure sufficient student representation at the state level. While Assembly Bill 1370 (Ta) and Assembly Bill 1542 (M. Fong) have now passed the Assembly and have been referred to the Senate, our third sponsored bill, Assembly Bill 680 (B. Rubio), was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in early May. While we are disheartened by this decision, we will continue to advocate for policies that ensure equity for our undocumented students. We are grateful to our many advocacy partners who shared the stories of students, testified during legislative hearings, sent letters of support, and met with their legislative representatives.

STATE LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

As of this writing, the Chancellor's Office has identified 156 Assembly Bills (AB) and Senate Bills (SB) that have an impact on higher education or the Chancellor's Office. Of these bills, 65 are classified at Tier 1 and most likely to have a direct impact on the California Community Colleges (CCCs), operations, programs, and support. This update includes a list of all Tier 1 bills we are currently monitoring and a breakdown of proposed positions. The last day for bills to pass second house policy committee is July 14th. Following this date, the Legislature will adjourn for Summer Recess until August 14th.

We are presenting two new bills with a **Support** position and one new bill with an **Oppose** position. Analyses for these bills can be found in the supplemental attachment. Overall, we have a **Support** position on 17 bills, a **Support if Amended** position on two bills, and an **Oppose** position on one bill. A full Legislative Matrix and a list of all Tier 1 bills can be found by visiting the [State Relations page on the Chancellor's Office website](https://cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/policy-and-advocacy/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation) (cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/policy-and-advocacy/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation). For additional details on bills, visit the [Legislative Counsel's website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/) (leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/).

SPONSORED LEGISLATION

AB 1370 (Ta) California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program Modernization.

Would modernize the Economic and Workforce Development Program to prioritize equitable student outcomes, work-based learning, and career and economic mobility.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1542 (M. Fong) Equitable Compensation for Student Board of Governors Members.

Would increase the compensation of the two student members serving on the Board of Governors from \$100 per meeting to \$4,000 per semester.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

NEW BILLS WITH A SUPPORT POLICY POSITION

- AB 274 (Bryan) California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS): CalFresh: eligibility: income exclusions.
- AB 372 (S. Nguyen) CalWORKs: eligibility: income exclusions.

NEW BILL WITH AN OPPOSE POSITION

- AB 689 (W. Carrillo) Community colleges: registered nursing programs.

OTHER BILLS WITH A POLICY POSITION

AB 91 (Alvarez) Nonresident tuition exemption: San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCA).

Would, until July 1, 2028, authorize SDICCA colleges to exempt, from the payment of nonresident tuition, a low-income student who is a resident of Mexico, registers for lower division courses, and has residence within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border. This bill would also authorize each participating SDICCA college to claim apportionment for up to 150 full-time equivalent students (FTES) annually.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 247 (Muratsuchi) Kindergarten Through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2024.

This \$14 billion bond, if enacted by voters during an unspecified 2024 statewide election, would provide an unspecified amount for the CCCs to construct and modernize educational facilities.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 320 (Lee) California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

Would expand CSAC to include four student members, one from each of the following: University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), CCCs, and a California private postsecondary educational institution.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Position: **Support.**

AB 358 (Addis) Community college districts: student housing.

Would remove the requirement for residential community college district student housing plans to be approved by the Division of the State Architect.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Position: **Support.**

AB 368 (Holden) College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships.

Would clarify that courses offered through the CCAP program may be offered at the community college campus or the participating high school campus and authorize students to enroll in any section of a course included in the CCAP agreement.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Position: **Support.**

AB 607 (Kalra) Public postsecondary institutions: course materials.

Would require, commencing July 1, 2024, colleges and universities to prominently display the estimated costs of all required course materials for no less than 75% of the total number of courses on the online campus schedule.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 610 (Holden) Student Transit Pass Pilot Program.

Would, upon an appropriation, create the Student Transit Pass Pilot Program to provide grants to transit agencies to create or expand free fare transit programs for students attending a CCC, CSU, or UC.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 928 (Reyes) CalFresh Data Dashboard: students.

Would require the Department of Social Services to **annually** update the CalFresh Data Dashboard, instead of over time as additional data become available.

Status: Referred to the Senate Human Services Committee.

Position: **Support.**

AB 1393 (Calderon) California Dream Act applicants: Food Support Pilot Program.

Would establish a state-funded Food Support Pilot Program, under the administration of CSAC, to provide food support grants to qualifying students who submit a complete California Dream Act application and receive financial assistance under the California Dream Act.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 1400 (Bryan) College Access Tax Credit Fund: community college student transfers: Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Would provide certain HBCU transfer students with a financial aid award from the College Access Tax Credit Fund.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 1540 (M. Fong) Nonresident tuition: exemption.

Would require an institution of higher education, in determining a student's eligibility for a nonresident tuition exemption under AB 540 (Firebaugh, 2001), to accept an affidavit provided to CSAC as part of the student's financial aid application.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 1541 (M. Fong) Community colleges: governing board membership: student members.

Would give each student member of the governing board of a community college district an advisory vote and make conforming changes.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Position: **Support.**

AB 1543 (M. Fong) Community colleges: student representation fees.

Would require \$1 of the \$2 Student Representation Fee to support the operations of local student body organizations and authorize a student to opt-out of this fee.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

AB 1749 (McCarty) Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act: UC.

Would, commencing with the 2025-26 academic year, require the UC to participate in the ADT program.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

Position: **Support.**

SB 28 (Glazer) Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2024.

This bond bill, if enacted by voters during the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, would provide \$2 billion for the CCCs to construct and modernize educational facilities.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

Position: **Support if Amended** to provide a more equitable share of bond funds for CCCs.

SB 307 (Ashby) Middle Class Scholarship Program: community colleges: current and former foster youth.

Would extend awards under the Middle Class Scholarship Program to community college students who are current or former foster youth pursuing certain educational goals.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

Position: **Support if Amended** to move implementation to the 2025-26 academic year.

SB 467 (Portantino) Community colleges: apprenticeship or internship training programs.

Would prohibit the denial of admission to a CCC career technical program because the student is using an individual tax identification number for the purposes of a required background check for internships or apprenticeships, rather than a social security number.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Position: **Support.**

HIGH-PRIORITY LEGISLATION UNDER REVIEW

AB 25 (McCarty) Student financial aid: Middle Class Scholarship Program.

Would prohibit CSAC, UC, CSU, and a CCC operating a baccalaureate degree program from considering any basic needs emergency aid in the awarding or adjusting of Middle Class Scholarship Program awards. This bill also states the intent of the Legislature to fully fund the Cal Grant Reform Act prior to the Middle Class Scholarship Program.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 252 (Holden) The College Athlete Protection Act.

Would require each institution of higher education to provide notifications related to Title IX rights to athletes and establish the College Athlete Protection Program in the Office of Planning and Research to regulate athletic programs.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Floor.

AB 255 (Alanis) Priority registration for first responders.

Would require, beginning July 1, 2024, the CSU and CCCs, and request the UC, to grant priority registration to first responders, as defined.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 264 (Ting) Community colleges: Lunar New Year holiday.

Would authorize a community college district, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding, to replace closing on Lincoln Day or Washington Day with Lunar New Year.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

AB 299 (Holden) Hazing: educational institutions: civil liability.

Would establish civil liability for an educational institution if the institution has direct involvement in, knew, or should have known of, the hazing practices of a student organization affiliated with the educational institution.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 311 (Santiago) California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.

Would remove the age limitation of the California Food Assistance Program and make any individual eligible for the program if their immigration status is the sole basis for their ineligibility for CalFresh benefits.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 322 (Mathis) Veteran and California National Guard Supplemental Orientation Act of 2023.

Would require, commencing by the 2025–26 academic year, the CSU and CCCs, and the UC if adopted by a resolution, to include within first-year and transfer orientations the location and contact information of the campus point of contact for student veterans.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 366 (Petrie-Norris) County human services agencies: workforce development.

Would require the Department of Social Services to establish a \$5 million stipend program to provide grants to community college students who have an interest in public child welfare work.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 376 (Villapudua) Cal Grant C: driver training programs: commercial motor vehicles.

Would authorize a Cal Grant C award to be used for entry-level driver training programs of less than four months that comply with specified driver training regulations related to commercial motor vehicles.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 377 (Muratsuchi) Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Strong Workforce Program.

Would consolidate specified K-12 career technical education programs, increase ongoing funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant program to \$450 million per year, and delete authorization for the K-12 Strong Workforce Program.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 458 (Jones-Sawyer) Modern policing degree.

Would require a peace officer to attain a modern policing degree or another advanced degree prior to receiving a basic certificate from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

Status: Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee.

AB 461 (Ramos) Student safety: fentanyl test strips.

Would require community college districts and CSU campuses to stock and distribute fentanyl test strips, provide information about the use and location of fentanyl test strips as part of campus orientations, and notify students of the presence and location of fentanyl test strips.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 472 (Wicks) Classified school district and community college employees: compulsory leaves of absence: compensation.

Would require a classified employee placed on an involuntary leave of absence while the employee has criminal charges, a criminal investigation, or an administrative matter pending to receive full compensation for the period of involuntary leave if the matter is resolved in favor of the employee, regardless of whether or not a merit system has been adopted.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 506 (M. Fong) CSU: graduation requirement: ethnic studies.

Would require the CSU to collaborate with the CCC Chancellor's Office, the CCC Ethnic Studies Faculty Council, and the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies to develop a process for the CSU to approve community college ethnic studies courses. This bill would also delay implementation of the CSU ethnic studies graduation requirement from the 2024-25 academic year to 2025-26.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 603 (Cervantes) Public postsecondary education: diversity: report.

Would require the Board of Governors, CSU Trustees, and request the UC Regents to annually publish a report on the diversity of the student body and the governing board of their respective segments.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 634 (Ward) Career development and college preparation courses.

Would require the Board of Governors to adopt regulations, no later than May 31, 2024, requiring the accounting of students enrolled in career development and college preparation courses to be conducted by positive attendance count or on a census date basis.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 659 (Aguiar-Curry) Cancer Prevention Act.

Would declare the public policy of the state that students who are 26 years of age or younger are expected to be fully immunized against human papillomavirus (HPV) before first-time enrollment at a CSU, UC, or CCC.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 746 (Sanchez) Learning-Aligned Employment Program.

Would remove restrictions for public postsecondary educational institutions to only employ students on campus in research positions and permit institutions to employ students in any job that will provide students with skills necessary for employment.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 789 (Berman) Cal Grants: satisfactory academic progress.

Would require, by the start of the 2024-25 academic year and as a condition of receiving Cal Grants, institutions to develop and implement policies defining “satisfactory academic progress” in a manner that is permissible under federal standards.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 811 (M. Fong) Credit course repetition.

Would require each community college district and the Board of Governors to establish policies and regulations for the repetition of credit courses consistent with specified guidelines.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 888 (Cervantes) Student financial aid: immigrants seeking asylum.

Would expand Cal Grant eligibility to a noncitizen who has filed an application for asylum and has a valid employment authorization document and social security number.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1096 (M. Fong) Educational instruction: language of instruction.

Would authorize a community college to offer courses taught in languages other than English without requiring students who enroll in those courses to concurrently enroll in an English as a Second Language (ESL) course.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

AB 1151 (McKinnor) Community colleges: use of property for athletic activities: insurance.

Would authorize, instead of require, districts to allow clubs and associations to use the district's facilities without a direct costs fee for athletic activities, charitable or educational purposes, or the civic well-being of the community when an alternative location is not available.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

AB 1173 (Ta) College and career fairs.

Would require a local educational agency that chooses to hold a college or career fair to provide a specified notice to each community college district that has overlapping jurisdiction with the local educational agency.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

AB 1198 (Grayson) Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz): Energy Unit: equity.

Would require the Energy Unit within GO-Biz, in consultation with the CCCs and other organizations, to provide recommendations on addressing barriers to access the energy industry and increasing participation levels among specified populations.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1275 (Arambula) Student-run community college organizations: open meetings: teleconferences.

Would, until January 1, 2026, authorize the recognized statewide community college student organization to use teleconferencing for their meetings without having to meet specified Brown Act requirements, including identifying each teleconference location in the notice and agenda and requiring that a quorum of the student organization's members participate from a singular physical location.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1342 (M. Dahle) California College Promise: fee waiver eligibility.

Would clarify that a student who enrolls in community college, after having enrolled in community college as a special part- or full-time student or dual enrollment student, is a first-time student for purposes of receiving a fee waiver under the California College Promise Program.

Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

AB 1524 (Lowenthal) On-campus access to drug testing devices.

Would require the CSU and community college districts to stock an adequate supply of drug testing devices at no fewer than one designated and accessible location on each campus and post a notice of these requirements in all women's and men's restrooms.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Floor.

AB 1577 (Low) General acute care hospitals: clinical placements: nursing.

Would require a general acute care hospital, as a condition of licensure, to provide clinical placements for postsecondary educational students enrolled in an approved school of nursing or an approved program of nursing education, as defined.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1695 (Gipson) Nursing Pathway Pilot Program.

Would, subject to an appropriation, require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop career pathways toward an associate degree in nursing and require pupils who enroll in these pathways to earn credits towards an associate degree in nursing program.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1699 (McCarty) K–14 classified employees: part-time or full-time vacancies: public postings.

Would require vacancies for part- and full-time classified service positions of an education employer to be offered with priority to current regular non-probationary classified employees who meet certain requirements.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1745 (Soria) Veterans: waiver of mandatory tuition and fees.

Would change the income qualifications for fee waivers provided to dependents of veterans to be based on state poverty level, as defined.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

ACA 7 (Jackson) Government preferences: interventions or programs: exceptions.

This constitutional amendment would provide that, subject to approval by the Governor, the state may utilize state moneys to fund research-based, or research-informed, and culturally specific interventions or programs if those interventions or programs are established or otherwise implemented by the state for purposes of increasing the life expectancy of, improving educational outcomes for, or lifting out of poverty specific ethnic groups or marginalized genders.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee.

SB 234 (Portantino) Opioid antagonists.

Would require all public, independent, and private postsecondary educational institutions to always maintain unexpired doses of naloxone hydrochloride or any other opioid antagonist on campus and ensure that at least two employees are aware of the location of the opioid antagonist.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 245 (Hurtado) California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.

Would remove the age limitation of the California Food Assistance Program and make any individual eligible for the program if their immigration status is the sole basis for their ineligibility for CalFresh benefits.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 433 (Cortese) Classified school and community college employees: disciplinary hearings: impartial third-party hearing officers.

Would require an impartial third-party hearing officer to determine whether sufficient cause exists for disciplinary action against a permanent employee, excluding a peace officer, unless the exclusive representative and the community college district enter into a collective bargaining agreement providing an alternative method of determining cause.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 444 (Newman) Community colleges: Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) programs.

Would encourage community colleges to develop and implement MESA programs directed at identifying and increasing educational attainment among students affected by social, economic, and educational disadvantages, among other specified goals.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 447 (Atkins) Travel ban.

Would repeal provisions in existing law prohibiting state agencies, CCCs, UCs, and CSUs from requiring travel to a state that has adopted laws leading to discrimination based on certain protected classes. Instead, this bill requires GO-Biz to establish the Building and Reinforcing Inclusive, Diverse, Gender-Supportive Equity Project (BRIDGE Project) for the purpose of promoting civil rights and antidiscrimination through education and marketing activities.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 521 (Smallwood-Cuevas) CalWORKS: pregnancy or parenting.

Would add denial of reasonable accommodations for pregnant or parenting students to the list of conditions that may be considered good cause for excuse from participation in welfare-to-work activities under the CalWORKs program.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 577 (Hurtado) California Fire Service Training and Education Program: fees.

Would require the State Fire Marshal to establish and collect the admission fees and other fees associated with the California Fire Service Training and Education Program only to the extent that state appropriations and other funding sources are insufficient to cover the necessary costs of training activities.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 711 (Caballero) Community colleges: blockchain degree and certification programs: working group.

Would require the Chancellor's Office, in collaboration with the Academic Senate, to produce a report by December 31, 2024, relating to the blockchain industry that addresses specified topics, including recommendations on activities related to pipeline

development between career technical education programs offered by local educational agencies and the CCCs.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 791 (McGuire) Academic and administrative employees: disclosure of sexual harassment.

Would request the governing board of the UC and require the governing boards of the CSU and community college districts to require, as part of the hiring process for an appointment to an academic or administrative position, that the applicant disclose any final administrative or judicial decision determining that the applicant committed sexual harassment.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 886 (Education) Postsecondary education.

This omnibus education bill would make several technical and conforming changes within the Education Code, which include renaming the “Online Education Initiative Consortium” to “California Virtual Campus.”

Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

ADVOCATES

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