

Assembly Bill 1885

College Access for Students with Disabilities

Assemblymember Dawn Addis

SUMMARY

AB 1885 would make qualifying for the Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG) more equitable by requiring participating community colleges to also consider awarding a grant to eligible students who enroll in 9 or more units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent, who are considered full-time as part of a disabled student programs and services Academic Accommodation Plan.

BACKGROUND

Existing law requires each participating community college to provide a Student Success Completion Grant award to a student attending a community college if the student receives a Cal Grant B or C award, makes satisfactory academic progress, and is a California resident or is exempt from paying nonresident tuition. Existing law awards \$1,298 per semester, or the quarterly equivalent, for eligible students who enroll in 12, 13, or 14 units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units, awards \$4,000 per semester, or the quarterly equivalent, for eligible students who enroll in 15 units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units, and, commencing with the 2023–24 academic year, awards \$5,250 per semester, or the quarterly equivalent, to eligible students who are current or former foster youth who enroll in 12 or more units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units.

In the 2022-23 school year, there were 107,385 students in the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS). Of these students, it is estimated that around 5,400 students would be eligible for the grant should this bill pass, thus providing equitable access to a group who was unable to earn the Student Success Completion Grant previously, despite being considered full-time students.

Additionally, the SSCG total funding is proposed to be increased in the 2024-25 budget from \$376 million to \$412 million. Should this bill pass, around 5,400 more students could be able to earn the Student Success Completion Grant, representing up to \$14 million annually.

PROBLEM

Students who are considered full-time in DSPS, meaning they are taking at least 9 units, are currently ineligible for the grant since the minimum for units required is 12. As a result, thousands of students with disabilities are disproportionally excluded and do not receive an equitable opportunity to earn the grant.

SOLUTION

AB 1885 would reduce the minimum required units for students in DSPS to receive the grant to 9 units. This would afford them the same opportunity that students without disabilities have to apply for and earn the Student Success Completion grant. If the students are considered full-time students in other programs, they should be eligible for this one as well. This bill would provide aid to one of our most vulnerable populations by giving them access to a grant that would help them pursue their academic endeavors.

SUPPORT

California Community Colleges, Office of the Chancellor (*co-sponsor*)

Student Senate for California Community Colleges (*co-sponsor*)

California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED)

CONTACT

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