

State Policy and Advocacy Update

(Provided by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Information current as of October 9, 2023).

STATE ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

The Legislature adjourned for the first year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session on September 14th. Overall, the Assembly and Senate introduced approximately 3,000 bills and resolutions over the course of the year, including 214 bills with an impact to higher education. The Chancellor's Office will release its annual Chaptered Legislation Report shortly following the October 14th deadline for the Governor to sign or veto bills.

STATE LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

As of this writing, the Chancellor's Office is monitoring 81 Assembly Bills (AB) and Senate Bills (SB) that have an impact on higher education or the Chancellor's Office. Of these bills, 36 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 summaries of all Tier 1 bills we are currently monitoring.

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://cocco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/policy-and-advocacy/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation) (cocco.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.legislature.ca.gov/) (leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/).

LEGISLATION WITH A CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE POSITION

AB 91 (Alvarez) Community colleges: exemption from nonresident tuition fee: residence near the California-Mexico border.

Would, until July 1, 2028, authorize nine specified colleges near the California-Mexico border 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.

Status: Referred to the Governor's desk.

Position: **Support.**

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: Vetoed.

Position: **Concern.**

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

Removes the requirement for residential community college district student housing plans to be approved by the Department of General Services.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on July 21st.**

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 authorizes students to enroll in any section of a course included in the CCAP agreement.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th**

Position: **Support.**

AB 372 (S. Nguyen) California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs): eligibility: income exclusions.

Would exclude any income received from performing work as a participant in an apprenticeship program or a pre-apprenticeship program for the purposes of determining students' CalWORKs eligibility.

Status: Vetoed.

Position: **Support.**

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

Would require the CCCs and California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to prominently display the estimated costs of all required course materials for 75% of the total number of courses on the online campus schedule by January 1, 2028.

Status: Referred to the Governor's desk.

Position: **Support.**

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: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

Position: **Support if Amended.**

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 specified credit courses for which the student previously received a satisfactory grade.

Status: Vetoed

Position: **Concern.**

AB 928 (Rendon) CalFresh Data Dashboard: students.

Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to update its CalFresh Data Dashboard with data specific to college students' receipt of CalFresh on an annual basis, rather than over time.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 8th.**

Position: **Support.**

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: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

Position: **Support.**

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

Provides certain HBCU students who transfer from a CCC with a financial aid award from the College Access Tax Credit Fund.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 30th.**

Position: **Support.**

AB 1540 (M. Fong) Postsecondary education: nonresident tuition: exemption.

Would require institutions 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 the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) as part of the student's financial aid application.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

Position: **Support.**

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

Requires the governing board of each community college district to grant its student trustee(s) an advisory vote.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on July 21st.**

Position: **Support.**

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: Vetoed.

Position: **Concern.**

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

Prohibits the denial of admission to a CCC apprenticeship or internship training program because the student is using an individual tax identification number (ITIN) for the purpose of any background check required by the class or program.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on July 13th.**

Position: **Support.**

OTHER HIGH-PRIORITY LEGISLATION

AB 70 (Rodriguez) Emergency response: trauma kits.

Requires buildings that were constructed prior to January 1, 2023, to have at least six trauma kits, as defined, if the buildings were modified, renovated, or improved.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

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

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

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

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: Referred to the Governor's desk.

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: Vetoed.

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

Requires 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: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

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

Requires 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.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 7th.**

AB 557 (Hart) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Eliminates the sunset date authorizing local agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with specified requirements during a proclaimed state of emergency.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

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: Vetoed.

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

Clarifies that CDCP courses, whether offered face-to-face or through distance education, are eligible for enhanced state apportionment.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

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: Referred to the Governor's desk.

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: Vetoed.

AB 760 (Wilson) Public postsecondary education: records: affirmed name and gender identification.

Clarifies that CCCs are required to update the records for current students, staff, and faculty to include the affirmed name, gender, or both name and gender identification for both unofficial transcripts and official transcripts.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 23rd.**

AB 764 (Bryan) Local redistricting.

Requires community college districts to implement the same criteria and processes that counties and cities are currently mandated to use when adopting or adjusting the boundaries of trustee areas.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on October 7th.**

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

Authorizes, instead of requires, 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: **Signed by the Governor on July 13th.**

AB 1291 (McCarty) UC Associate Degree for Transfer Pilot Program.

Would require UC Los Angeles (UCLA) to declare certain majors as similar to the transfer model curricula from select community colleges according to a specified timeline, and require UC to designate at least five campuses to declare at least 12 majors as similar to the transfer model curricula from select community colleges.

Status: Referred to the Governor's desk.

AB 1173 (Ta) College and career fairs.

Requires 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: **Signed by the Governor on June 29th.**

AB 1311 (Soria) Public postsecondary education: allied health programs: assessment.

Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to conduct an assessment, by January 1, 2025, evaluating the efficacy of existing programs in allied health jointly offered between campuses of the CCCs, CSU, and UC.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on July 27th.**

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

Clarifies 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: **Signed by the Governor on July 21st.**

AB 1484 (Zbur) Temporary public employees.

Would require local public employers to include temporary employees in the same bargaining unit as permanent employees and require the public employer to promptly participate in collective bargaining to establish certain employment conditions for the newly added temporary employees.

Status: Referred to the Governor's desk.

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: Referred to the Governor's desk.

SB 428 (Blakespear) Temporary restraining orders and protective orders: employee harassment.

Expands, commencing January 1, 2025, the circumstances under which employers can seek restraining orders on behalf of their employees to include harassment, unlawful violence, or a credible threat of violence, as defined.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 30th.**

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: Vetoed.

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: Referred to the Governor's desk.

SB 447 (Atkins) Travel ban.

Repeals 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.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 13th.**

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

Adds 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: **Signed by the Governor on October 8th.**

SB 544 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

Creates, until January 1, 2026, an alternative set of provisions under which a state body may hold a teleconference meeting under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, including requiring at least one member of the state body to be physically present at each teleconference location.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 22nd.**

SB 553 (Cortese) CalWORKS: pregnancy or parenting.

Requires, commencing July 1, 2024, employers to establish a workplace violence prevention plan that contains specified elements.

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 30th.**

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

Requests the governing board of the UC and requires 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: **Signed by the Governor on October 7th**

SB 886 (Education) Postsecondary education.

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

Status: **Signed by the Governor on September 8th.**

ADVOCATES

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