

State Policy and Advocacy Update

(Provided by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Information current as of February 1, 2024).

STATE LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

As of this writing, the Chancellor's Office is tracking 82 Assembly Bills (AB) and Senate Bills (SB) that have an impact on higher education or the Chancellor's Office. Of these bills, 37 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. The last day for the Legislature to introduce bills is February 16th.

For the 2024 Legislative Session, the Chancellor's Office is sponsoring two bills that would make college more affordable for students with disabilities and provide equitable access to academic and career pathways. AB 1885 by Assemblymember Addis would allow students receiving support under the Disabled Services and Programs for Students (DSPS) who are classified as full-time to also receive a Student Success and Completion Grant. AB 1891 by Assemblymember Weber would authorize allied health programs to utilize multi-criteria screening for admission decisions. We extend our gratitude to Assemblymember Addis and Assemblymember Weber for serving as our legislative champions on these student-centered issues.

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/).

SPONSORED LEGISLATION

AB 1885 (Addis) Student Success Completion Grant program.

Would allow students receiving support under the Disabled Services and Programs for Students (DSPS) who are classified as full-time to also receive a Student Success and Completion Grant.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

AB 1891 (Weber) Community colleges: allied health programs.

Would, until January 1, 2030, authorize the usage of multi-criteria screening for admission decisions in allied health programs.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

HIGH-PRIORITY TWO-YEAR BILLS

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: Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Position: **Support.**

AB 274 (Bryan) California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS): CalFresh: eligibility: income exclusions.

Would exempt any grant, award, scholarship, loan, or fellowship benefit provided to any member for educational purposes from consideration as income for purposes of determining CalWORKs eligibility or grant amounts.

Status: Referred to the Senate Inactive File.

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.**

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: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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

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 Senate Education Committee.

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: Referred to the Senate Human Services Committee.

AB 359 (Holden) College and Career Access Pathways partnerships.

Would make numerous changes to College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships for the purpose of offering or expanding dual enrollment opportunities for all students.

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 stipend program to provide grants to community college students who have an interest in public child welfare work.

Status: Referred to the Senate Inactive File.

AB 456 (Maienschein) Campus mental health hotlines.

Would require the Chancellor's Office, by January 1, 2026, to develop a plan to make a campus mental health hotline that is operated by an organization with expertise in student mental health available to students on their respective campuses.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 810 (Friedman) Postsecondary education: hiring practices: academic, athletic, and administrative appointments.

Would require all institutions of higher education, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, to implement a policy of requiring potential employees for academic, athletic, and administrative positions to disclose whether they have been the subject of a finding of sexual harassment.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1142 (M. Fong) Postsecondary education: Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in California.

Would establish the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in California as the statewide postsecondary education oversight, coordination, and planning entity.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1160 (Pacheco) Protecting Students from Creditor Colleges Act.

Would prohibit colleges from refusing to provide a diploma or certificate for a current or former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt. This bill would also prohibit colleges from engaging a third-party debt collection agency to collect student debt.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

AB 1524 (Lowenthal) Postsecondary education: 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 Senate Inactive File.

AB 1575 (Irwin) Public postsecondary education: students codes of conduct: advisers.

Would authorize students who receive a disciplinary notification to have an adviser of their choosing and requires postsecondary education institutions to provide trainings for the aforementioned adviser.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

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: Referred to the Senate Health Committee.

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.

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: Pending referral in the Senate.

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: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee.

SB 312 (Wiener) California Environmental Quality Act: university housing development projects: exemption.

Would clarify that, for a higher education institution to utilize an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for student housing projects, the institution must receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification for each building according to a specified timeframe.

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: Referred to the Assembly Inactive File.

NEWLY INTRODUCED HIGH-PRIORITY LEGISLATION UNDER REVIEW

AB 1793 (Ta) Middle Class Scholarship Program: eligibility: dependents of members of the armed services stationed outside of California.

Would extend Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship Program eligibility to a student who was not a resident of California at the time of high school graduation but meets all other eligibility requirements and is the dependent or spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed outside of California on active duty.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 1818 (Jackson) Public postsecondary education: homeless students: parking.

Would require each campus of the CSU and CCCs, and would request the UC, to allow overnight parking by a student attending its campus if the student uses the vehicle as housing and meets other specified conditions.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 1839 (Alanis) Peace officers: education and hiring grants.

Would establish the Law Enforcement Officer Grant Program under the administration of the California Student Aid Commission to provide grants to individuals enrolled in a CCC modern policing degree program.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 1841 (Weber) Student safety: opioid overdose reversal medication: student housing facilities.

Would require the governing board of each community college district and the CSU Trustees to require each university or college-affiliated student-housing facility to stock federally approved opioid overdose reversal medication obtained through the Naloxone Distribution Project.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 1855 (Arambula) Open meetings: teleconferences: community college student body associations.

Would authorize a CCC student body association to use alternate teleconferencing procedures related to the notice, agenda, and participation of public meetings if, among other requirements, the community college district has adopted a resolution authorizing this practice.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government.

AB 1860 (Bauer-Kahan) Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: student loan debt.

Would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2029, exclude income that would otherwise be realized from the discharge of student loan debt.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

AB 1914 (Grayson) Community colleges: providers of care for individuals with developmental disabilities: model curriculum.

Would require the Chancellor's Office to develop a model curriculum for a certification program for providers of care for individuals with developmental disabilities, designed to be offered at community colleges where there is sufficient student interest and a properly qualified faculty to sustain a certification program.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

AB 2015 (Schiavo) Nursing schools and programs: faculty members, directors, and assistant directors.

Would require all faculty members, assistant directors, and directors of an approved school of nursing or nursing program to hold an active license in good standing as a

registered nurse issued by the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and to be approved by the BRN as possessing minimum qualifications, including being clinically competent.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

AB 2019 (V. Fong) Early and middle college high schools and programs: CCAP partnerships.

Would expand the definition of early and middle college high schools to include early and middle college programs established within a high school and exempt a pupil enrolled in an early college program or a middle college program from the 240-minute minimum schoolday requirement if the pupil is also enrolled in a UC, CSU, or CCC course.

Status: Pending referral in the Assembly.

SB 895 (Roth) Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program.

Would require the Chancellor's Office to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that authorizes 15 community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

SB 916 (Seyarto) Waiver of tuition and fees: veterans: extended education courses.

Would prohibit the UC, CSU, or CCCs from charging any tuition or fees for a student who enrolls in an extended education course, is already eligible for the CalVet Veteran Services College Fee Waiver, and is enrolling in the extended education course to meet the requirements of an undergraduate degree program.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

SB 959 (Menjivar) Sexual orientation and gender identity: campus contact.

Would add queer faculty, staff, and students to the list of individuals for whom the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) campus point of contact is required to serve.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

SB 971 (Portantino) Exemption from nonresident tuition fee: resident of a region impacted by war or regional conflict.

Would authorize community college districts to exempt, from the payment of nonresident tuition, a nonresident, low-income student who: 1) is a resident of a region impacted by war or other regional conflict; 2) registers for lower division courses at a community college; and 3) has indicated that they have sought California residency in an effort to find relief from identified conflicts in their nation of origin.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

SB 984 (Wahab) Public agencies: project labor agreements.

Would authorize a state agency, defined to include the UC, CSU, and CCCs, to undertake a major state construction project only if that project is governed by a project labor agreement that includes community benefit goals, as specified.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

SB 995 (Padilla) High-Quality Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act.

Would require the CSU, in consultation with the CCCs, to develop a five-year pilot program commencing with the 2025–26 school year to recruit high-quality teaching candidates at three CSU campuses in partnership with three CCC campuses.

Status: Pending referral in the Senate.

ADVOCATES

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