

State and Federal Policy Update

This document is prepared by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office as part of its regular monthly and bimonthly updates for the Consultation Council and the Board of Governors, respectively. The information presented herein is current as of February 28, 2025, at the time of Board items were due. The latest information will be provided to the Board of Governors at the time of the presentation.

STATE LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

As of this writing, the Chancellor's Office is tracking 96 Tier 1 Assembly Bills (AB) and Senate Bills (SB). These bills are most likely to have a direct impact on the California Community Colleges, students, faculty, staff, operations, programs, and services. The last day to introduce new bills was February 21, 2025.

A full Legislative Matrix with bill descriptions and bill status can be found by visiting the [State Relations page on the Chancellor's Office website](http://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Government-Relations-Policy-in-Action/Policy-in-action/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation) (www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Government-Relations-Policy-in-Action/Policy-in-action/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation). You can also find text for each bill on [LegInfo](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/).

Board of Governors Sponsored Legislation

1. AB 363 (Bryan) Community colleges: CalWORKs Recipients Education Program: eligibility and services.
2. SB 308 (Seyarto) Community colleges and the California State University: reports: elimination.
3. SB 391 (Laird) Community colleges: Chancellor of the California Community Colleges: data request fee policy.

Academic Pathways, Instruction, and Transfer

4. AB 9 (Quirk-Silva) University of California: California State University: transfer students.
5. AB 662 (Alvarez) Postsecondary education: intersegmental institution of higher education in the City of the Chula Vista: shared governance structure.
6. AB 664 (Alvarez) Community colleges: baccalaureate degree program: Southwestern Community College District.
7. AB 731 (Fong) Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships.
8. AB 934 (Berman) Postsecondary education: student access and success.
9. AB 988 (Fong) Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships: task force.
10. AB 1093 (Solache) Public postsecondary education: California-Mexico Higher Education Development and Academic Exchange Program.

- 11.**AB 1122 (Bryan) Pupil instruction: dual enrollment.
- 12.**AB 1462 (Hart) Public postsecondary education: community colleges: baccalaureate degree program: Allan Hancock College.
- 13.**SB 438 (Cabaldon) School attendance: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships.
- 14.**SB 640 (Cabaldon) Public postsecondary education: admission, transfer, and enrollment.
- 15.**SB 744 (Cabaldon) Community colleges: credit for students with prior learning.

Affordability, Financial Aid, and Tuition/Fees

- 16.**AB 88 (Ta) Student financial aid: Cal Grants: Middle Class Scholarship Program: eligibility: dependents of members of the armed services stationed outside of California.
- 17.**AB 264 (Carrillo) Veterans: benefits.
- 18.**AB 313 (Ortega) Student financial aid: application deadlines: extension.
- 19.**AB 320 (Bennett) Public social services: eligibility: income exclusions.
- 20.**AB 402 (Patel) Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program and the California Community College Expanded Entitlement Program.
- 21.**AB 537 (Bennett) Public social services: eligibility: income exclusions.
- 22.**AB 556 (Patterson) Public postsecondary education: waiver of campus-based fees: veterans.
- 23.**AB 700 (Caloza) Student loans: public service educational loan forgiveness program.
- 24.**AB 791 (Berman) Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program: cost of attendance.
- 25.**AB 850 (Pacheco) Institutional Debt Transparency Act.
- 26.**AB 1035 (M. Gonzalez) Community colleges: California College Promise: fee waiver eligibility.
- 27.**Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 40 Student financial aid: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data.
- 28.**SB 67 (Seyarto) Student financial aid: Cal Grants: Middle Class Scholarship Program: eligibility: dependents of members of the armed services stationed outside of California.
- 29.**SB 323 (Pérez) Student Aid Commission: California Dream Act application.

Apportionments and Attendance Accounting

- 30.**SB 790 (Cabaldon) Postsecondary education: postsecondary education coordinating entity: interstate reciprocity agreements for distance education: out-of-state private postsecondary educational institutions.

Basic Needs

- 31.**AB 42 (Bryan) CalWORKs: CalFresh: eligibility: income and resource exclusions.
- 32.**AB 79 (Arambula) Public social services: higher education.
- 33.**AB 90 (Jackson) Public postsecondary education: overnight student parking.
- 34.**AB 648 (Zbur) Community colleges: housing: local zoning regulations: exemption.
- 35.**AB 861 (Solache) Community colleges: students: public transportation: Los Angeles Community College District.
- 36.**AB 1324 (Sharp-Collins) CalWORKs.
- 37.**SB 271 (Reyes) Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children: childcare services, resources, and programs.

District Meetings, Organization, and Elections

- 38.**AB 240 (Alanis) Community colleges: study: Counties of Amador, Alpine, Mariposa, Modoc, and Sierra.
- 39.**AB 259 (B. Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.
- 40.**AB 287 (Lackey) Elections: polling places and vote centers.
- 41.**AB 409 (Arambula) Open meetings: teleconferences: community college student body associations and student-run organizations.
- 42.**AB 1433 (Sharp-Collins) Education finance: funding: noncredit instruction.
- 43.**SB 226 (Cabaldon) Community colleges: territory transfers between districts.

Facilities

- 44.**AB 48 (Alvarez) College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2026.
- 45.**AB 893 (Fong) Housing development projects: objective standards: campus development zone.
- 46.**AB 905 (Pacheco) Public bodies: general obligation bonds: disclosure requirements.
- 47.**SB 486 (Cabaldon) Regional housing: public postsecondary education: changes in enrollment levels: California Environmental Quality Act.

Labor and Employment

- 48.**AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry) School and community college employees: paid disability and parental leave.
- 49.**AB 339 (Ortega) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.
- 50.**AB 340 (Ahrens) Employer-employee relations: confidential communications.
- 51.**AB 374 (Nguyen) K–14 classified employees: payment of wages: itemized statements.
- 52.**AB 569 (Stefani) California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013: exceptions: supplemental defined benefit plans.
- 53.**AB 1028 (Fong) Community colleges: part-time faculty.

- 54.**AB 1163 (Elhawary) Employees: workplace violence prevention plans: topics and trainings.
- 55.**AB 1171 (Patel) Community colleges: part-time faculty: benefits.
- 56.**AB 1247 (Garcia) Classified employees: school districts and community college districts: contracting out: training requirements.
- 57.**SB 241 (Cervantes) Community colleges: personnel: qualifications.
- 58.**SB 494 (Cortese) Classified school and community college employees: disciplinary hearings: appeals: contracted administrative law judges.

Law Enforcement

- 59.**AB 992 (Irwin) Peace officers.
- 60.**SB 385 (Seyarto) Peace officers.

Local Administrative Policies and Procedures

- 61.**AB 370 (Carrillo) California Public Records Act: cyberattacks.
- 62.**AB 466 (Solache) Public postsecondary education: student orientation: Donate Life California.
- 63.**AB 844 (Essayli) Educational equity: sex-segregated school and athletic programs and activities: use of facilities.
- 64.**SB 68 (Menjivar) Major food allergens.

Omnibus Higher Education

- 65.**SB 619 (Education) Public postsecondary education.

State Operations

- 66.**AB 810 (Irwin) Local government: internet websites and email addresses.
- 67.**AB 1315 (Essayli) California American Freedmen Affairs Agency.
- 68.**SB 70 (Seyarto) Public contracts: Small Business Procurement and Contract Act.

Student Equity

- 69.**AB 243 (Ahrens) Postsecondary education: student financial aid dependency status: juvenile case file inspection.
- 70.**AB 335 (Gipson) The Designation of California Black-Serving Institutions Grant Program.
- 71.**AB 727 (M. Gonzalez) Pupil and student safety: statewide resources: identification cards.
- 72.**AB 809 (Quirk-Silva) Corrections: rehabilitation space.
- 73.**Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 7 Government preferences.
- 74.**SB 388 (Padilla) California Latino Commission.

Student Safety and Protection

75.AB 972 (Wilson) Postsecondary education: discrimination: sex.

76.SB 289 (Cervantes) Postsecondary education: statewide Title IX oversight office.

Undocumented Students

77.AB 49 (Muratsuchi) Schoolsites and day care centers: entry requirements: immigration enforcement.

78.AB 85 (Essayli) Law enforcement: cooperation with immigration authorities.

79.AB 324 (Sanchez) California Values Act: exception.

80.AB 421 (Solache) Immigration enforcement: prohibitions on access, sharing information, and law enforcement collaboration.

81.AB 695 (Fong) California Community Colleges Access and Continuity for Deported Students Act.

82.AB 1066 (Castillo) Immigration services: grants.

83.SB 48 (Gonzalez) Immigration enforcement: schoolsites: prohibitions on access, sharing information, and law enforcement collaboration.

84.SB 98 (Perez) Elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education: immigration enforcement: notification.

85.SB 307 (Cervantes) Public postsecondary education: access: immigration status.

86.SB 554 (Jones) Law enforcement: immigration enforcement.

Workforce and Career Education

87.AB 95 (Fong) Postsecondary education: Coordinating Commission for Education in California.

88.AB 323 (Fong) Strong Workforce Program: work-based learning opportunities.

89.AB 338 (Solache) Workforce development: the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura: 2025 wildfires.

90.AB 345 (Jackson) Apprenticeship programs: approval process.

91.AB 694 (McKinnor) Department of Industrial Relations: advisory committee: occupational safety and health.

92.AB 1136 (Ortega) California Workforce Development Board: high road training partnerships.

93.AB 1207 (Irwin) Climate change: market-based compliance mechanism.

94.SB 21 (Durazo) Workforce development: poverty-reducing labor standards: funds, programs, reporting, and analyses.

95.SB 345 (Hurtado) California Fire Service Training and Education Program: California Fire and Arson Training Act: fees.

96. SB 845 (Pérez) Pupil instruction: career technical education, career education, and apprenticeships.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

Budget Update

The United States Senate has voted 52-48 to approve a two-part budget resolution, with a focus first on military and immigration enforcement spending, followed by a tax bill later this year. The U.S. House of Representatives, on the other hand, has voted 217-215 to approve a single legislative package approach, combining spending and tax cuts in response to President Donald Trump's call for "one big, beautiful bill." The Senate and House are now working to develop a consensus approach to budget and appropriations for FY 2025 and FY 2026. Meanwhile, the Continuing Resolution (CR) enacted in December 2024 to keep funding in place temporarily at FY 2024 levels expires on March 14, 2025. Congress may adopt another CR short-term while budget negotiations continue.

U.S. Department of Education Leadership

Linda McMahon – Secretary

Linda McMahon will serve as Secretary of Education leading the Education Department. The co-founder and former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment has constantly been involved with the Trump administration and his presidential campaigns. During Trump's first term she was leader of the Small Business Administration. Additionally, she has co-chaired the Trump-Vance transition team and chaired the Trump-aligned American First Policy Institute think tank in their efforts against diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in education. Previously McMahon has served on the board of trustees for Sacred Heart University and on the Connecticut Board of Education for a year in 2019.

Penny Schwinn - Deputy Secretary

Dr. Penny Schwinn previously served as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education starting in 2019. She began her career in education as a high school history and economics teacher in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to her role as commissioner, she served as Chief Deputy Commissioner of Academics at the Texas Education Agency. Dr. Schwinn has also served as Assistant Secretary of Education at the Delaware Department of Education and as Assistant Superintendent of Performance Management for the Sacramento City Unified School District in California. She is also the founder and former superintendent of Capitol College Collegiate Academy. Dr. Schwinn holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California-Berkeley, a Master of Arts in teaching from John Hopkins University, and a PhD in Education Policy from Claremont Graduate University.

Nicholas Kent - Under Secretary

Nicholas Kent joins the Department of Education as Under Secretary of Education after serving as Deputy Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia under Governor Glenn Youngkin. Previously he was the Chief Policy Officer at Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU), a higher education trade association. Before his role at CECU he was the director of Policy, Planning, and Research at the DC office of the State

Superintendent of Education. Kent holds a Master of Arts degree in higher education administration from George Washington University.

James Bergeron – Deputy Under Secretary

James Bergeron recently served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of Higher Education Resources. In this capacity, he provided day-to-day leadership, operational management, financial health, direction, and growth to the organization and assisted members in carrying out their public service missions to increase college access and success. Previously, Bergeron worked as the Director of Education and Human Services Policy for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce where he developed and managed the committee's legislative agenda, including the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, and Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. Before joining the committee, Bergeron served as Legislative Director for Rep. Buck McKeon where he was responsible for developing the legislative agenda within the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness around financial aid simplification and regulatory relief. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Leadership at the U.S. Department of Labor

Lori Chavez-DeRamer

Lori Chavez-DeRamer was previously elected to represent Oregon's 5th Congressional District in 2022, making her the first Republican woman from Oregon to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. During her time in Congress, she advocated for the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, a bill designed to facilitate the formation of labor unions by overturning state Right to Work laws, which undermine union strength. Before her election to Congress, Chavez-DeRamer served as former mayor of Happy Valley, Oregon from 2010-2018 and on the Happy Valley city council from 2005 to 2010, where she was president beginning in 2007. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration from California State University, Fresno.

Keith Sonderling- Deputy Secretary of Labor

Keith Sonderling was previously Commissioner on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) he previously served as the Commission's Vice Chair prior. Prior to Sonderling's confirmation to the EEOC, he served as the Acting and Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the U.S. Department of Labor. Before joining the Department of Labor in 2017, Sonderling practiced Labor and Employment law in Florida with. In 2012, he was appointed to serve as the Chair of the Judicial Nominating Committee for appellate courts in South Florida by then-Governor Rick Scott. Sonderling was also active in the community, serving on the Board of Directors for Morse Life Health System, the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, and Leadership Florida. Sonderling also serves as a Professional Lecturer in the Law at the George Washington University Law School, teaching employment discrimination.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

American Dream and Promise Act of 2025

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (D-TX-29) has reintroduced the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025, or Dream Act. The Dream Act would provide a pathway to citizenship to Dreamers, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. It would also include recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) beneficiaries. The Dream Act has over 200 House co-sponsors.

Reintroduction of the bipartisan "Jumpstarting Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act"

United States (U.S.) Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Tina Smith (D-MN), and Roger Marshall (R-KS) have introduced S. 383, the Jumpstarting Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act, bipartisan legislation to help more Americans get good-paying jobs by allowing students to use federal Pell Grants to pay for shorter-term job training programs. By expanding Pell Grant eligibility, the JOBS Act is intended to help close the skills gap by allowing people to access job training they might otherwise be unable to afford but need for careers in high-demand fields (Shared previously in January 2025).

ADVOCATES

If you have not already subscribed to the Government Relations listserv, where information is routinely distributed, you are welcome to join. To subscribe, send an e-mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET and put SUBSCRIBE ADVOCATES in the body of a BLANK, NON-HTML e-mail. NO SUBJECT OR SIGNATURES.