



FY2024-25 REPORT

K-12 Strong Workforce Program

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Chancellor



California
Community
Colleges

SONYA CHRISTIAN
Chancellor

November 4, 2025

Secretary of the Senate
Erika Contreras
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: K12 Strong Workforce Program Report for 2024-25

Dear Secretary Contreras:

Pursuant to California Assembly Bill 121, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the Board of Governors are pleased to release the 2024–25 K12 Strong Workforce Program (K12 SWP) report.

The K12 SWP Report provides an overview of funding allocations, eligibility criteria, grant cycle timelines, and outcome trends, highlighting the program's ongoing role in preparing California's students for high-demand careers. For any questions regarding this report, please contact Javier Cazares, Specialist, at jcazares@ccccc.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Sonya Christian, Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

CC:
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Brooks Allen, Executive Director, State Board of Education
Office of Legislative Counsel
Department of Finance

K12 SWP FY24-25 REPORT

Prepared By

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

Workforce & Economic Development Division

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INTRODUCTION

The K12 Strong Workforce Program (K12 SWP) was established as part of California's broader Strong Workforce Program initiative, which began in 2016–17 with a \$200 million investment to enhance career technical education (CTE) across the California Community Colleges. Recognizing the need to extend these efforts into earlier grades, the K12 component was launched in 2018–19 to strengthen CTE pathways for students in grades 7–12. The program invests \$163.5 million annually to strengthen career technical education (CTE) for grades 7–12. Of this, \$150 million funds local education agencies (LEAs) to expand CTE pathways aligned with regional workforce needs, \$12 million supports technical assistance through 72 Pathway Coordinators and eight Technical Assistance Providers, and \$1.5 million covers administrative costs.

For 2024–25, 247 of 293 applications were funded, fully awarding the available \$150 million. Fund distribution is based on regional factors such as unemployment rates, average daily attendance, and projected job openings. Competitive grants range from \$250,000 to \$2 million, supporting intersegmental partnerships that lead to measurable student outcomes including CTE course completion, early college credit, certifications, and post-secondary enrollment.

The program emerged from recommendations made by the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy, convened by the Board of Governors in 2014. The task force emphasized the importance of aligning educational programs with regional labor market demands and improving the responsiveness of CTE offerings to industry needs.

K12 SWP was designed to:

- Support intersegmental partnerships between K–12 schools, community colleges, and industry,
- Expand and improve CTE pathways that lead to postsecondary credentials and employment,
- Promote equity and access to high-quality career education for all students.

Since its inception, K12 SWP has awarded hundreds of millions of dollars through competitive grants to local education agencies (LEAs), enabling them to create new CTE programs, enhance existing ones, and build stronger connections with postsecondary institutions and employers. The program is administered jointly by the California Department of Education and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, with funds distributed through eight regional consortia using a weighted formula based on unemployment rates, average daily attendance, and projected job openings.

In 2024–25, the program allocated \$163.5 million statewide. Of this amount, \$150 million was for direct LEA grants, \$12 million for technical assistance through 72 Pathway Coordinators and eight Technical Assistance Providers, and \$1.5 million for administrative support. Competitive grants, ranging from \$250,000 to \$2 million, fund projects aligned with regional workforce priorities and emphasize measurable outcomes such as CTE course completion, early college credit, industry certifications, graduation rates, and postsecondary enrollment.

The initiative is governed by Part 54.5 of the California Education Code, which outlines the funding formula and eligibility criteria for the K–12 component. It remains a cornerstone of California’s strategy to prepare students for high-skill, high-demand careers and to ensure a future-ready workforce.

FUNDING OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the K12 SWP is to prepare California’s students for in-demand careers. K12 SWP funds are an investment to support continuous improvement and capacity-building. LEAs can choose to create new CTE courses, programs, or pathways; retool existing CTE programs with innovative practices; or expand current CTE courses, programs, and pathways that connect the K12 sector with community colleges and local industry to improve student outcomes. K12 SWP funds are opportunity funds that help LEAs implement strategies that strengthen their CTE programming and support collaboration with local community colleges to extend education and career pathways for high school graduates.

The K12 SWP is foundational to students’ ability to be successful at CTE community college programs.

These outcomes show student success in secondary and postsecondary education and in the workforce. The secondary education metrics measure:

- Student completion of two or more CTE courses in high school in the same program of study;
- Completion of two or more CTE courses that include early college credit, work-based learning, or third-party certification;
- High school graduation rate; and
- Enrollment in a California community college within one year of high school graduation.

FY2024-2025 ALLOCATION

TOTAL ANNUAL ALLOCATION

\$163,500,000 – Projected funding levels for the 2025–26 and 2026–27 fiscal years remain constant.

FUNDING FORMULA

The K12 SWP initiative annually funds \$150 million to support K-12 local education agencies (LEAs) in creating, improving, and expanding career technical education (CTE) pathways and programs that are aligned to regional workforce needs. The K12 SWP provides an additional \$12 million in funding for a two-tiered system of technical assistance to the field in support of both the K12 SWP and CTE Initiative Grant and \$1.5 million in funding for administration costs. The funds are allocated to LEAs to hire 72 pathway coordinators (PCs) providing the K12 system with direct technical assistance and eight technical assistance providers (TAPs) to

provide regional support to LEAs. This team provides extensive direct assistance to the field to successfully implement the program.

California has committed to budgeting \$150 million in ongoing annual funds as an education, economic, and workforce investment to build an education pipeline that prepares highly skilled individuals to fill employment gaps in regional industries across the state. The California Department of Education and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office), in partnership, manage the K12 SWP initiative and administer funds to eight California community college regional consortia, each of which forms a K12 Selection Committee that, guided by the regional priorities in the Strong Workforce Program regional plans, awards K12 SWP funds to eligible and qualifying LEAs in its region through a competitive grant process.

Pursuant to the amount appropriated in the annual Budget Act for the K12 component of the Strong Workforce Program, \$150 million will be apportioned by the Chancellor's Office to the fiscal agent of each regional consortium based on the following weighted factors in each region:

1. The unemployment rate. This factor should comprise 33% of the allocation formula.
2. The region's total average daily attendance for pupils in grades 7-12, inclusive. This factor should comprise of 33% of the allocation formula. For purposes of this section, average daily attendance should be those figures that are reported at the time of the second principal apportionment for the previous fiscal year.
3. The proportion of projected job openings. This factor should comprise 34% of the allocation formula.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Deadline	Reporting Type	Reporting System	Activity Period
Aug. 31, 2026	Q4 Expenditure Report	NOVA	January 2026 - June 2026
Nov. 2, 2026	Annual Course Data Report	Cal-PASS	2025-26 School Year
Feb. 26, 2027	Q2 Expenditure Report	NOVA	July 2026 - December 2026
Aug. 31, 2027	Q4 Expenditure Report	NOVA	January 2027 - June 2027
Nov. 1, 2027	Annual Course Data Report	Cal-PASS	2026-27 School Year
Feb. 25, 2028	Q2 Expenditure Report	NOVA	July 2027 - December 2027
Aug. 31, 2028	Q4 Expenditure Report	NOVA	January 2028 - June 2028
Nov. 1, 2028	Annual Course Data Report	Cal-PASS	2027-28 School Year
Nov. 30, 2028	Final K12 SWP Expenditure Report with Narrative	NOVA	January 2026 - June 2028

FY2024-25 K12 SWP STATEWIDE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO REGIONS

Regional Consortium	Total K12 SWP Allocation
Bay Area	\$28,288,270
Central Valley/Mother Lode	\$21,929,001
Inland Empire/Desert	\$20,188,189
Los Angeles	\$24,172,834
North/Far North	\$20,518,295
Orange County	\$11,287,050
San Diego/Imperial	\$13,849,851
South Central Coast	\$9,766,509
Total	\$150,000,000

FY2024-25 PCS AND TAPS STATEWIDE FUNDING AWARDS BY REGION

Region	No. of PCs Allocated	No. of TAPs Allocated	PC & TAP Total Awards Allocated	Formula 1% Admin Fee Adjust (LEA Award X 1%)	Total Award Amount
Bay Area	17	1	\$2,620,000	\$282,883	\$2,902,883
Central Valley/Mother Lode	8	1	\$1,360,000	\$219,290	\$1,579,290
Inland Empire/Desert	9	1	\$1,500,000	\$201,882	\$1,701,882
Los Angeles	11	1	\$1,780,000	\$241,728	\$2,021,728
North/Far North	11	1	\$1,780,000	\$205,183	\$1,985,183
Orange County	4	1	\$800,000	\$112,870	\$912,870
San Diego/Imperial	6	1	\$1,080,000	\$138,499	\$1,218,499
South Central Coast	6	1	\$1,080,000	\$97,665	\$1,177,665
Total	72	8	\$12,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$13,500,000

FY2018-23 K12 SWP STATEWIDE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO REGIONS

Regional Consortium	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Bay Area	\$ 29,422,144	\$31,544,336	\$30,825,442	\$30,825,442	\$27,542,126	\$28,380,398
Central Valley/Mother Lode	\$ 22,371,470	\$20,669,204	\$20,846,960	\$20,846,960	\$23,283,743	\$20,632,608
Inland Empire/Desert	\$ 18,961,442	\$18,120,797	\$18,048,425	\$18,048,425	\$25,034,965	\$18,600,959

Regional Consortium	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Los Angeles	\$ 26,059,654	\$24,701,121	\$25,339,879	\$25,339,879	\$18,352,236	\$26,849,623
North/Far North	\$ 14,819,649	\$19,630,460	\$19,844,596	\$19,844,596	\$22,463,379	\$19,673,567
Orange County	\$ 12,828,373	\$11,917,641	\$11,789,491	\$11,789,491	\$10,471,575	\$12,014,345
San Diego/Imperial	\$ 14,701,200	\$13,468,557	\$13,318,371	\$13,318,371	\$12,330,741	\$13,811,110
South Central Coast	\$ 10,836,068	\$9,947,884	\$9,986,836	\$9,986,836	\$10,521,235	\$10,037,389
Total	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000

CONCLUSION

The K12 Strong Workforce Program continues to serve as a vital mechanism for strengthening California’s educational and economic infrastructure by investing in career technical education for students in grades 7–12. Through strategic funding, regional collaboration, and compressive accountability measures, the program ensures that students are equipped with the skills and experiences necessary to thrive in postsecondary education and the workforce. The consistent demand for funding and the program’s alignment with labor market needs underscore its relevance and impact. As California maintains its commitment to this initiative, the K12 SWP remains a cornerstone in building a future-ready workforce and fostering equitable access to high-quality career pathways across the state.

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LA Valley College

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