

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 26, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2017

SENATE BILL

No. 539

Introduced by Senators De León and Portantino

February 16, 2017

An act to add Part 54.8 (commencing with Section 88910) to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 539, as amended, De León. The Community College Student Achievement Program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The board appoints a chief executive officer known as the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Under existing law, community college districts are authorized, among other things, to maintain and operate campuses, employ faculty and other employees, and provide instruction to students.

This bill, commencing with the 2017–18 academic year, would establish the Community College Completion Incentive Grant Program, under the administration of the chancellor, to create guided pathways, defined as comprehensive sets of community college programs and services focused on improving student success. The program would require a participating governing board of a community college district, in order to receive program funds, to demonstrate in its application for funding that participating community colleges within the district will develop, in collaboration with the district as necessary, a plan to implement a guided pathway that includes specified elements. The bill

would, only in fiscal years in which funding has been provided for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or another statute, require participating community colleges to award grants to its students who meet specified requirements. The bill would require the chancellor to report to the Legislature, on or before April 1, 2019, regarding grant award recipients for the 2018–19 award year, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The Public Policy Institute of California reports that, in 2030,
- 4 38 percent of jobs will require at least a baccalaureate degree.
- 5 However, if current trends persist, only 33 percent of working-age
- 6 California adults will have a baccalaureate degree by 2030.
- 7 (b) Approximately 2.1 million students attend California
- 8 community colleges. In 2015–16, the California Community
- 9 Colleges awarded over 74,000 certificates and 130,000 degrees
- 10 and transferred over 103,000 students to four-year universities.
- 11 (c) The Public Policy Institute of California reports
- 12 approximately one in 10 community college students transfers to
- 13 a four-year university. However, only about 40 percent of those
- 14 community college students succeed in transferring. Students who
- 15 do transfer to the University of California and the California State
- 16 University have high rates of success, with the vast majority
- 17 earning a baccalaureate degree.
- 18 (d) Eighty percent of entering community college students are
- 19 enrolled in at least one remedial mathematics or English course
- 20 during their college careers. Eighty-six percent of students enrolled
- 21 in remedial education courses are low income and 87 percent are
- 22 Latino or African American.
- 23 (e) California will not meet its workforce demands without more
- 24 community college students earning certification to obtain a
- 25 higher-paying job or transferring to a four-year university to
- 26 complete a baccalaureate degree program.
- 27 SEC. 2. Part 54.8 (commencing with Section 88910) is added
- 28 to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

1 PART 54.8. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMPLETION
2 INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM
3

4 88910. For purposes of this part, the following terms have the
5 following meanings:

6 (a) “Academic year” means the total of two consecutive
7 semesters or three quarters, commencing with the opening of the
8 fall term. Each semester or quarter is approximately the same
9 length.

10 (b) “Associate degree for transfer” means an associate degree
11 established according to the criteria established in Section 66746.

12 (c) “Award year” means one academic year plus one summer
13 term, or the equivalent, of attendance at a qualifying institution.

14 (d) “Cost of attendance” means the student’s tuition and fees,
15 books and supplies, room, board, transportation expenses,
16 including, but not limited to, purchasing regional transit passes,
17 and other student expenses used to calculate a student’s financial
18 need for federal student financial aid programs under Title IV of
19 the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C.
20 Sec. 1070 et seq.)

21 (e) “Financial need” means a student’s financial need calculated
22 pursuant to the federal financial need methodology, as established
23 by Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as
24 amended (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1070 et seq.).

25 (f) “Guided pathway” means a comprehensive set of community
26 college programs and services focused on improving student
27 success that includes all of the following:

28 (1) Clearly structured, coherent academic program maps for all
29 academic programs that meet all of the following:

30 (A) Reflect curriculum aligned with university transfer programs
31 and labor market needs.

32 (B) Provide detailed course sequences and progress milestones.

33 (C) Represent the most efficient path for students to complete
34 academic programs while maintaining the quality of these
35 programs.

36 (2) Student advising and support services that help students
37 transition from high school to community college, explore
38 academic and vocational fields, chose a major, develop a full
39 education plan, and obtain contextualized, integrated academic
40 support to help them pass program gateway courses.

1 (3) Procedures and systems to track students' progress in
2 following their education plans, identify students at risk of not
3 progressing in a program, and intervene promptly with advising,
4 academic, and other supports to help those students resume
5 progress or develop a more viable education plan.

6 (4) Program-specific student learning outcomes aligned with
7 student goals for transfer or employment, effective teaching
8 practices, and applied learning experiences.

9 88911. (a) Commencing with the 2017–18 academic year,
10 there shall be established the Community College Completion
11 Incentive Grant Program under the administration of the Chancellor
12 of the California Community Colleges. The purpose of the program
13 is to establish guided pathways to accomplish all of the following
14 objectives:

15 (1) Assist students in completing a program of study leading to
16 an associate degree for transfer, *an associate degree*, otherwise
17 transfer to a four-year university, or a career technical education
18 ~~associate degree or certificate~~.

19 (2) Improve student completion rates.

20 (3) Reduce time to degree.

21 (4) Increase student ability to obtain high-paying jobs.

22 (b) In order to receive funding under this program, the governing
23 board of a community college district shall demonstrate in its
24 application for funding that each participating community college
25 within the district will, in collaboration with the district as
26 necessary, develop a plan to implement all of the components for
27 a guided pathway. The plan shall include all of the following
28 elements:

29 (1) A completed implementation and readiness assessment for
30 the guided pathway, as provided by the chancellor for each
31 participating college.

32 (2) A process and timeline for developing each component of
33 the guided pathway.

34 (3) The college's detailed policies regarding the use of
35 information from high school records and other assessment
36 measures to determine each student's course placement and
37 academic support needs.

38 (4) A description of all of the following:

39 (A) How the community college district plans to work with the
40 governing board of school districts to ensure high school pupils

1 are prepared to enroll and complete college-level courses by the
2 time of their high school graduation, which may include, but not
3 necessarily be limited to, participating in dual enrollment programs
4 established pursuant to Section 76004.

5 (B) How the community college district plans to collaborate
6 with the University of California and the California State
7 University to develop transfer pathways to the University of
8 California and the California State University.

9 (C) How the basic skills program offered by the participating
10 community college will ensure that students who are deemed
11 unprepared for college level mathematics or English receive
12 intensive curriculum support to complete a guided pathway in a
13 timely manner.

14 (D) (i) How the community college plans to coordinate its
15 programs established pursuant to the Awards for Innovation in for
16 Higher Education Program established in Article 2.6 (commencing
17 with Section 66010.96) of Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5,
18 associate degree for transfer established in Article 3 (commencing
19 with Section 66745) of Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5,
20 zero-textbook-cost degrees established pursuant to Article 4
21 (commencing with Section 78050) of Chapter 1 of Part 48, the
22 Student Success and Support Program established in Article 1
23 (commencing with Section 78210) of Chapter 2 of Part 48, the
24 Student Success for Basic Skills Program, including funding for
25 student equity plans, established in Part 54.3 (commencing with
26 Section 88815), and the Strong Workforce Program established
27 in Part 54.5 (commencing with Section 88820) with the
28 implementation of the guided pathway plan. It is the intent of the
29 Legislature for the community college to evaluate these programs
30 as offered by the community college to determine how best to
31 coordinate their purposes and outcome goals with the
32 implementation of the guided pathway plan.

33 (ii) The description required in this subparagraph shall include
34 a detailed description of the community college's expenditure plan
35 for implementing this subparagraph.

36 (C) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Budget Act of 2017
37 include a one-time appropriation to support the requirements of
38 this section.

39 88912. (a) Commencing with the 2017–18 academic year,
40 each participating community college shall provide a grant award

1 to a student pursuant to subdivision (b). The purpose of the grant
2 award is to provide the student with additional financial aid to help
3 offset his or her total cost of community college attendance.

4 (b) A student attending a community college may receive a
5 grant award pursuant to this section if the student meets all of the
6 following requirements:

7 (1) The student has received an award under the Full-Time
8 Success Grant program established pursuant to Schedule (1) of
9 Item 6870-102-0001 of the Budget Act of 2015 for each term in
10 which he or she receives an award under this section.

11 (2) The student is enrolled in a program of study and has
12 completed an education plan identifying courses, sequence of
13 courses, key progress milestones, and other requirements the
14 student must complete to earn an associate degree or career
15 technical education certificate or meet transfer requirements.

16 (3) The student is not incarcerated.

17 (4) The student is not in default on any student loan and has not
18 failed to repay a federal or state student grant when required to do
19 so.

20 (5) (A) The student maintains a grade point average of at least
21 2.0 and complies with ~~either~~ *all* of the following:

22 ~~(A)~~

23 (i) Enrolls in 15 or more credit units per semester, or the
24 equivalent number of units per quarter, to be considered on track
25 to obtain an associate degree for ~~transfer~~, *transfer or an associate*
26 *degree*, or to otherwise transfer to a four-year university, within
27 two academic years.

28 ~~(B)~~

29 (ii) Enrolls in a sufficient number of units per ~~semester or~~
30 ~~quarter~~, *semester, quarter, or summer term*, as determined by the
31 community college, to be considered on track to receive a
32 certificate for a career technical education program within the
33 published length of time.

34 (iii) *Enrolls in summer coursework after enrolling in 12 or more*
35 *credits per the primary semester, or the applicable number of units*
36 *per quarter, as applicable, to be considered on track to receive*
37 *an associate degree for transfer or an associate degree, or to*
38 *otherwise transfer to a four-year university, within two academic*
39 *years.*

1 (B) For the purposes of subparagraph (A), credits earned while
2 participating in a dual enrollment program shall count towards
3 the requisite number of units required.

4 (6) The student earns a sufficient number of credits per award
5 year to be considered on track to complete an associate degree for
6 ~~transfer~~, transfer or an associate degree, or to otherwise transfer
7 to a four-year university, within two academic years, or complete
8 a career technical education certificate within the published time
9 for the career technical education program.

10 (7) The student is a California resident or is exempt from paying
11 nonresident tuition under Section 68130.5 or 76140.

12 (c) (1) To the extent practicable, a grant award shall be awarded
13 at the same time as a recipient's overall financial aid package.

14 (2) The grant award shall be four thousand dollars (\$4,000),
15 shall be considered a supplemental grant, and shall not supplant
16 any other grant, fee waiver, or scholarship aid received by the
17 student, including, but not necessarily limited to, federal grants,
18 Cal Grant awards, institutional grants, merit-based scholarships,
19 athletic scholarships, and full-time student success grants.

20 (3) The grant award shall be based upon the financial need of
21 the applicant, and shall not exceed the calculated financial need
22 for any individual applicant. The minimum level of financial need
23 of applicants shall be determined by the commission pursuant to
24 Section 69432.9.

25 (d) Each participating community college shall administer the
26 grant award pursuant to the requirements of this section.

27 (e) This section shall not be operative in a fiscal year unless
28 funding has been provided for this section for that fiscal year in
29 the annual Budget Act or another statute.

30 88913. (a) On or before April 1, 2019, the chancellor shall
31 report to the Legislature all of the following for the 2018–19 award
32 year:

33 (1) The number of grant award recipients who met the
34 requirements of paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 88912.

35 (2) The number of grant award recipients who met the
36 requirements of paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 88912,
37 disaggregated by recipients who are pursuing an associate degree
38 for ~~transfer~~ transfer, an associate degree, or a career technical
39 education certificate, including the type of career technical
40 education certificate.

1 (3) The number of grant award recipients who enrolled in and
2 successfully completed a transfer-level mathematics or English
3 course, or an equivalent course to earn a career technical education
4 certificate, that is required for their academic program during their
5 first year of enrollment.

6 (4) The number of grant award recipients who enrolled in and
7 successfully completed at least nine units in their major during
8 their first year of enrollment.

9 (5) The average grade point average of grant award recipients.

10 (b) Student information reported pursuant to subdivision (a)
11 shall be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and
12 socioeconomic status.

13 (c) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under
14 subdivision (a) is inoperative on April 1, 2023, pursuant to Section
15 10231.5 of the Government Code.

16 (2) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
17 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
18 Code.

19 88914. The board of governors may adopt regulations to
20 administer the Community College—Student—Achievement
21 *Completion Grant* Program.