

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Part 54.5 (commencing with Section 88820) is added to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

PART 54.5. STRONG WORKFORCE PROGRAM

88820. This part shall be known, and may be cited as, the Strong Workforce Program.

88821. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) California's economic competitiveness is fueled, in part, by the strength of its regional economies and its skilled workforce.

(2) Upward social and economic mobility helps keep the state's economy diversified and vibrant.

(3) The attainment of industry valued "middle skill credentials" serves as a gateway for a large and diverse number of careers in the state's economy.

(4) California's local educational agencies, community college districts, interested public four-year universities, local workforce development boards, economic development and industry leaders, and local civic representatives should collaboratively work together to inform the offerings of courses, programs, pathways, and workforce development opportunities that enable students to access the current and future job market and further social and economic mobility.

(b) The Strong Workforce Program is hereby established for the purpose of expanding the availability of quality community college career technical education and workforce development courses, programs, pathways, credentials, certificates, and degrees.

(c) To facilitate program coordination and alignment with other workforce training, education, and employment services in the state, the Strong Workforce Program shall operate in a manner that complies with the California Strategic Workforce Development Plan, required pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128), and expand upon existing Career Technical Education Regional Consortia infrastructure.

(d) To avoid duplication of effort, activities funded under the Strong Workforce Program shall be informed by, aligned with, and expand upon the activities of existing workforce and education regional partnerships, including those partnership activities that pertain to regional planning efforts established pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128), adult education block grant consortia, and K-12 career technical education programs.

(e) All of the following guiding principles shall apply to community college districts participating in the Strong Workforce Program:

(1) Community college districts shall ensure community college career technical education and workforce development courses, credentials, certificates, degrees, programs, and pathway offerings are responsive to the needs of employers, workers, civic leaders, and students.

(2) Community college districts shall collaborate with other public institutions, including, but not limited to, local educational agencies, adult education consortia, local workforce development boards, and interested California State University and University of California institutions on a regional basis.

(3) Collaborative efforts shall focus upon evidence-based decision making and student success with workforce outcomes aligned with the performance accountability measures of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law

113-128), and closing labor market and employment gaps. Each collaborative shall strive to align programmatic offerings in the most effective and efficient manner to avoid duplication of effort and streamline access to services, and education and training opportunities.

(4) Community college districts and other participating entities within a regional collaborative are encouraged to develop long-term partnerships with private sector employers and labor partners to provide coordinated courses, programs, and pathways with employer involvement in the assessment, planning, and development of community college career technical education courses, programs, and pathways. To the extent practicable, employer partnerships should build upon regional partnerships formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128), existing infrastructure established by the chancellor's office, and other state or federal programs.

(f) The chancellor's office shall, in consultation with its partners formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128), as applicable, develop and implement policies and guidance necessary to implement the Strong Workforce Program, including policies and guidance necessary for participating community college districts and their regional partners to increase the number of aligned middle skill and career technical education courses, programs, pathways, credentials, certificates, and degrees. No later than June 30, 2017, the chancellor's office shall develop and implement policies and guidance pursuant to this subdivision and bring before the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges any policies, regulations, and guidance necessary to accomplish all of the following:

(1) Facilitate the regional development, implementation, and sharing of career technical education effective practices, curriculum models and courses, and community college credentials, certificates, degrees, and programs across regions and between community college districts.

(2) Enable community college districts to develop career technical education and workforce outcomes, and applicable associate degrees for transfer as appropriate.

(3) Provide accessible performance and labor market data that can be used flexibly by participating community college districts and their regional partners to support the implementation of the Strong Workforce Program and related efforts to align regional workforce and education programming with regional labor market needs.

(4) Encourage local efficiency through coordinated and collaborative regional workforce efforts in which community college districts are partners.

(5) Enable students to efficiently transfer college-level career technical education credits across community college districts and to the California State University and the University of California.

(6) Improve sector-based engagement with employers within a region to provide work-based learning opportunities for students that increase their employability and earning potential.

(7) Enable community college districts to facilitate and optimize their resources to support the Strong Workforce Program on a regional basis.

(8) Ensure that community college district Strong Workforce Program expenditures are focused on improving student success with workforce outcomes for all students enrolled in community college career technical education courses, programs, and pathways.

(9) Streamline the process of course and curriculum approval, both at the state and local levels, including the potential elimination of a state approval process for career technical education courses, programs, and certificates.

(10) Eliminate barriers to hiring qualified instructors for career technical education courses, including reevaluating the required minimum qualifications for career technical education instructors.

(g) After June 30, 2017, and only as necessary, the chancellor's office may develop and implement revised policies and guidance and bring regulations before the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges as necessary for a community college district and its regional

partners to accomplish both of the following:

(1) Implement and expand the amount of aligned middle skill and career technical education credentials, certificates, degrees, courses, programs, and pathways in accordance with paragraphs (1) to (10), inclusive, of subdivision (f).

(2) Implement the recommendations of the Strong Workforce Task Force.

88822. For purposes of this part, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “Career pathways” means an identified series of positions, work experiences, or educational benchmarks or credentials that offer occupational and financial advancement within a specified career field or related fields over time.

(b) “Career technical education credential” means a workforce certificate, degree, or industry-recognized credential.

(c) “Career Technical Education Regional Consortia” means the administrative grouping of community colleges by the Division of Workforce and Economic Development of the chancellor’s office for the purpose of coordination and joint planning within regions, as defined in subdivision (j).

(d) “Chancellor’s office” means the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

(e) “Collaborative” means a collaborative group of community college districts, local educational agencies, interested campuses of the California State University and University of California, civic representatives, workforce development boards, representatives from the labor community, and economic development and industry sector leaders.

(f) “Industry” or “industry sectors” means trade associations or those firms that produce similar products or provide similar services using somewhat similar business processes.

(g) “Middle-skill credential” means a certificate, associate’s degree, or industry recognized credential that is less than a bachelor’s degree but more than a high school diploma and facilitates student success with workforce outcomes.

(h) “Plan” means the regional plan established under this part.

(i) “Program” means the Strong Workforce Program established under this part.

(j) “Region” means a geographic area of the state defined by economic and labor market factors containing at least one industry cluster and the cities, counties, or community college districts, or all of them, in the industry cluster’s geographic area. To the extent possible, for the purposes of this part, collaborative regions should align with federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) regional planning unit boundaries specified in the California Strategic Workforce and Development Plan and expand upon existing Career Technical Education Regional Consortia infrastructures.

(k) “Strong Workforce Task Force” means the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy commissioned by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

88823. (a) Commencing July 1, 2017, as a condition of receipt of funds from this program for a fiscal year, the members of a regional collaborative shall have approved a plan that has been updated for that fiscal year.

(b) The plan pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include all of the following requirements:

(1) The names of the entities participating in the collaborative, including the name of the collaborative’s fiscal agent.

(2) The governance model for the collaborative. Decisions governing, or relating to, the

distribution of fiscal resources shall be determined exclusively by the community college districts participating in the collaborative.

(3) An **analysis of regional labor market needs** informed by a federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) economic analysis and other sources as applicable. This analysis shall also include wage data for each industry sector or labor market need identified.

(4) An **inventory** of regionally prioritized and locally prioritized projects and programs that close relevant labor market and employment gaps.

(5) Measurable regional goals that align with the performance accountability measures of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128).

(6) For regionally prioritized projects and programs, a **work plan, spending plan, and budget.**

(7) A description of the alignment of work plans, spending plans, and other education and workforce plans guiding services in the region, including plans pertaining to the building of career pathways and the employment of workforce sector strategies and those plans required pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128).

(c) The members of a regional collaborative shall approve a plan by January 31 once every four years and shall annually update the plan by January 31 of each year thereafter.

(d) The chancellor's office shall review the plans on a four-year cycle and ensure that annual updates are made by each regional collaborative. The chancellor's office shall determine if each collaborative has made significant progress in meeting the goals and measures outlined in its plan, and provide technical assistance to a collaborative that has not met its goals. The chancellor's office is encouraged to provide technical assistance pursuant to this subdivision through the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative.

(e) To avoid duplication of effort, plans developed pursuant to this section shall be informed by, aligned with, and expand upon regional plans and planning efforts established pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128).

(f) **Community college districts participating in a regional collaborative shall utilize their region's plan to inform local campus planning** efforts to implement career technical education courses, programs, and pathways and integrate available local, regional, state, and nonpublic resources to ensure that students will achieve successful workforce outcomes.

(g) Community college districts shall meet with the members of their collaborative not less than annually to inform on the delivery of career technical education and workforce development courses, programs, and pathways within the region.

(h) Each region's plan shall be for the primary purpose of informing the development of strategies related to career technical education and workforce development courses, programs, and pathways. Each region's plan shall reflect strategies to efficiently and effectively utilize any available public and private resources, including funds for the Career Technical Education Pathways Program established in Part 52 (commencing with Section 88530), in a manner that better aligns career technical education courses, programs, and pathways with the needs of their regional economies.

88824. (a) This section **only applies for the 2016–17 fiscal year.**

(b) To promote the success of community college students and the career technical education programs that serve them, **up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated** for the program in the annual Budget Act may be allocated by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to a community college district **for statewide activities to improve and administer the program**, including the facilitation of system, program, and data alignment at the state and regional levels. The chancellor's office shall consult with the California Workforce Development Board on the development of all statewide activities that would be implemented by the selected district to facilitate broader workforce and education system alignment. Statewide coordination activities funded out of this allocation may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

(1) State-level coordination with the Employment Development Department for the development of labor market analyses pertaining to economic and industry trends and jobs projections for the purpose of supporting common regional planning efforts and the alignment of career technical education program offerings with regional labor market dynamics.

(2) Research, evaluation, and joint technical assistance with state-level partners, including the California Workforce Development Board and the State Department of Education, on the use of effective local and regional policies, best practices, and model partnerships.

(3) Development and prototyping of innovative policies, practices, and coordinated services with local workforce and education partners.

(4) Participation of community college districts in existing regional coalitions and planning efforts.

(5) State agency coordination in cross-training local program staff.

(6) Development and maintenance of a state-level cross-system data reporting mechanism with partners formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128), including the Employment Development Department, for the purpose of monitoring workforce program outcomes and performance accountability.

(7) Leveraging allocated funds with state partners not described in paragraph (6) through interagency agreements, memorandums of understanding, or other appropriate mechanisms.

(c) The chancellor's office shall recommend to the Department of Finance the allocation of funds available for each career technical education regional collaborative no later than August 30, 2016. The department shall approve the allocation plan before the release of funding. Each regional collaborative, in consultation with local colleges, community college districts, and the chancellor's office, shall select a fiscal agent who shall directly receive funds apportioned for the collaborative in accordance with this section. The chancellor's office shall consider, for purposes of allocating funds for the collaborative, local unemployment rates, proportion of career technical education full-time equivalent students, and proportion of projected job openings. Funds may be used for regionally prioritized projects and programs and locally prioritized projects and programs that meet regional needs for career technical education and workforce development courses, programs, pathways, credentials, certificates, and degrees.

(d) As a condition of receipt of funds pursuant to subdivision (c), a community college or its district must comply with all of the following requirements:

(1) Be a member of a collaborative.

(2) Participate in regional planning efforts established pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) and other efforts to align workforce, employment, and education services.

(3) Work with other members of the collaborative to create and submit a plan to the chancellor by January 31, 2017, for inclusion in the submissions of regional plans for purposes of the program and the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128).

(4) Provide accessible performance and labor-market data that can be used by community college districts and their regional partners to support the implementation of the program and describe related efforts to align regional workforce and education programming with regional labor market needs, including, but not limited to, regional planning efforts established pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128).

(5) Certify that the use of funds will meet the intent of the program to accomplish all of the following:

(A) Increase the number of students in quality career technical education courses, programs, and pathways that will achieve successful workforce outcomes.

(B) Increase the number of quality career technical education courses, programs, and pathways

that lead to successful workforce outcomes, or invest in new or emerging career technical education courses, programs, and pathways that may become operative in subsequent years and are likely to lead to successful workforce outcomes.

(C) **Address recommendations from the Strong Workforce Task Force**, which include the provision of student services related to career exploration, job readiness and job placement, and work-based learning.

(e) Funds appropriated to community college districts for the program shall **supplement, not supplant**, existing funding of community college career technical education programs. This subdivision shall not be interpreted to mean that a participating community college district is prohibited from eliminating or altering existing programs, but that the total offering of career technical education and workforce development by the district must not be reduced.

(f) **A regional collaborative shall allocate funds only to community college districts.**

88825. (a) This section applies **commencing with the 2017–18 fiscal year**.

(b) To promote the success of community college students and the career technical education programs that serve them, up to **5 percent of the funds** appropriated for the program may be allocated by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to a community college district for statewide activities to improve and administer the program, including the facilitation of system, program, and data alignment at the state and regional levels. The chancellor's office shall consult with the California Workforce Development Board on the development of all statewide activities that would be implemented by the selected district to facilitate broader workforce and education system alignment. Statewide coordination activities funded out of this allocation may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

(1) State-level coordination with the Employment Development Department for the development of labor market analyses pertaining to economic and industry trends and jobs projections for the purpose of supporting common regional planning efforts and the alignment of career technical education program offerings with regional labor market dynamics.

(2) Research, evaluation, and joint technical assistance with state-level partners, including the California Workforce Development Board and the State Department of Education, on the use of effective local and regional policies, best practices, and model partnerships.

(3) Development and prototyping of innovative policies, practices, and coordinated services with local workforce and education partners.

(4) Participation of community college districts in existing regional coalitions and planning efforts.

(5) State agency coordination in cross training local program staff.

(6) Development and maintenance of a state-level cross-system data reporting mechanism with partners formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128), including the Employment Development Department, for the purpose of monitoring workforce program outcomes and performance accountability.

(7) Leveraging allocated funds with state partners not described in paragraph (6) through interagency agreements, memorandums of understanding, or other appropriate mechanisms.

(c) Funds apportioned for the program shall go directly to the fiscal agents of regional collaboratives for the purpose of funding regionally prioritized projects and programs and locally prioritized projects and programs that meet the needs of regional economies, as identified in regional plans.

(d) **The allocation of funds to a regional collaborative shall be based on a schedule determined by the chancellor's office and is effective for the four years of each plan cycle.** Within the four-year plan cycle, this schedule may be altered to reflect changes in the statewide allocation for the program as appropriated in the annual Budget Act.

(e) The chancellor's office shall recommend to the Department of Finance the allocation of funds available for each regional collaborative no later than August 30 of each year. The department shall approve the allocation plan before the release of funding.

(f) For each four-year plan cycle, the chancellor's office shall determine the amount of funds to be allocated to each regional collaborative based on the following factors in each region:

(1) The unemployment rate.

(2) The proportion of career technical education full-time equivalent students.

(3) The proportion of projected job openings.

(4) The proportion of successful workforce outcomes as evidenced by the performance accountability measures of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128).

(g) A regional collaborative shall allocate funds in accordance with its plan and only to community college districts. Decisions governing, or relating to, the distribution of fiscal resources shall be determined exclusively by the community college districts participating in the collaborative.

(h) As a condition of receipt of funds under this section, a participating community college or its district must comply with all of the following:

(1) Be a member of a collaborative.

(2) Participate in regional planning efforts formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) and other efforts that align workforce, employment, and education services.

(3) Work with other collaborative members to create and submit a plan to the chancellor's office by January 31 of every fourth year of a four-year plan cycle.

(4) Provide accessible performance and labor market data that can be used by community college districts and their regional partners to support the implementation of the program and any related efforts to align regional workforce and education programming with regional labor market needs, including, but not limited to, regional planning efforts established pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128).

(5) Include interested public universities in regional planning.

(6) Certify that the use of funds will meet the intent of the program to accomplish all of the following:

(A) Increase the number of students in quality career technical education courses, programs, and pathways that will achieve successful workforce outcomes.

(B) Increase the number of quality career technical education courses, programs, and pathways that lead to successful workforce outcomes, or invest in new or emerging career technical education courses, programs, and pathways that may become operative in subsequent years and are likely to lead to successful workforce outcomes.

(C) Address recommendations from the Strong Workforce Task Force, which include the provision of student services related to career exploration, job readiness and job placement, and work-based learning.

(i) Funds appropriated to community college districts for the program shall supplement, not supplant, existing funding of community college career technical education programs. This subdivision shall not be interpreted to mean that a participating community college district is prohibited from eliminating or altering existing programs, but that the total offering of existing career technical education and workforce development by the district must not be reduced.

(j) Programs, courses, or instructional materials developed using funding from the program shall be made available to all community college districts through the online clearinghouse of information created as part of the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative.

88826. (a) The chancellor's office shall implement performance accountability outcome measures for the program that provide the Governor, the Legislature, and the general public with information that quantifies employer and student outcomes for those participating in the program. These performance accountability measures should, to the extent possible, align with the performance accountability measures of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128). Outcome measures shall include, to the extent possible, demographic data, to allow policymakers and the general public to evaluate progress in closing equity gaps in program access and completion, and earnings of underserved demographic groups.

(b) The chancellor's office shall post on its Internet Web site, for ease of access, all regional plans and their subsequent progress plans, and solicit feedback from collaboratives on recommendations they have for overall program improvement.

(c) (1) Commencing in 2018, the chancellor's office shall submit a report on the program to the Governor and the Legislature on or before January 1 of each year. This report shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Data summarizing outcome accountability performance measures collected by the chancellor's office pursuant to subdivision (a).

(B) A summary of recommendations for program improvement collected by the chancellor's office pursuant to subdivision (b).

(C) Recommendations for future allocations to regional collaboratives based upon program outcomes, including, at a minimum, the number of certificates granted to, and wage increases of, students who have completed a career technical education program.

(2) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

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 is required to appoint 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 would establish the Strong Workforce Program, to provide funding to regional collaboratives made up of community college districts, local educational agencies, and other interested bodies that meet certain requirements for purposes of expanding the availability of quality community college career technical education and workforce development courses, programs, pathways, credentials, certificates, and degrees for community college students. Funding would be upon appropriation by the Legislature and pursuant to an allocation recommended by the chancellor's office and approved by the Department of Finance. The bill would authorize a portion of funds appropriated for the program to be allocated by the board of governors to a community college district for purposes of administering and improving the program, as provided. The bill would require the chancellor's office, among other things, to (1) implement performance accountability outcome measures for the program, (2) post on its Internet Web site regional plans required under the program, along with updates to those plans, and solicit feedback from collaboratives on recommendations for improving the program, and (3) report, commencing in 2018, to the Legislature by January 1 of each year data summarizing the performance accountability outcome measures, a summary of the recommendations received from collaboratives, and recommendations for future allocations to regional collaboratives, as specified.

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