

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2017

SENATE BILL

No. 539

Introduced by ~~Senator~~ *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 ~~Student Achievement~~ *Completion Incentive Grant* Program, under the administration of the chancellor, to create ~~a coherent, integrated, and systemwide approach regarding instruction, advising, support services, and financial aid provided to students; 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 ~~guided pathway~~ plan *to implement a guided pathway* that includes specified ~~components~~ *elements*. The bill ~~would~~ *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. ~~The bill would provide that the program shall not be operative in a fiscal year unless sufficient funding has been provided for the program for that fiscal year in the annual Budget Act or another statute.~~

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

1 higher-paying job or transferring to a four-year university to
2 complete a baccalaureate degree program.

3 SEC. 2. Part 54.8 (commencing with Section 88910) is added
4 to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

5
6 PART 54.8. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE-~~STUDENT~~
7 ~~ACHIEVEMENT COMPLETION INCENTIVE GRANT~~
8 PROGRAM
9

10 88910. For purposes of this part, the following terms have the
11 following meanings:

12 (a) “Academic year” means the total of two consecutive
13 semesters or three quarters, commencing with the opening of the
14 fall term. Each semester or quarter is approximately the same
15 length.

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

18 (c) “Award year” means ~~one college year~~, *academic year plus*
19 *one summer term*, or the equivalent, of attendance at a qualifying
20 institution.

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

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

32 (f) “Guided pathway” ~~is an integrated, collegewide approach~~
33 *means a comprehensive set of community college programs and*
34 *services focused on improving student success. success that*
35 *includes all of the following:*

36 (g) ~~“Satisfactory academic progress” means a student~~
37 ~~participating in the program established pursuant to this part~~
38 ~~maintains a grade point average of at least 2.0 and complies with~~
39 ~~either of the following:~~

~~(1) Completes 15 or more credit units per semester, or the applicable number of units per quarter, to be considered on track to obtain an associate degree, or to otherwise transfer to a four-year university, in two academic years.~~

~~(2) Maintains a sufficient number of units per semester or quarter, as determined by the community college, to be considered on track to complete a certification in the published length of time for a career technical education program.~~

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

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

(B) Provide detailed course sequences and progress milestones.

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

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

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

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

88911. (a) Commencing with the 2017–18 academic year, there shall be established the Community College—Student Achievement Completion Incentive Grant Program under the administration of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. The purpose of the program is to establish a coherent, integrated, and systemwide approach regarding instruction, advising, support services, and financial aid provided to students guided pathways to accomplish all of the following objectives:

~~(1) Assist students in completing a pathway.~~

~~(2)~~

1 ~~(1) Assist students in completing the courses necessary to~~
2 ~~receive a program of study leading to an associate degree for~~
3 ~~transfer, or to otherwise transfer to a four-year university.~~
4 ~~university, or a career technical education associate degree or~~
5 ~~certificate.~~

6 ~~(3)~~

7 (2) Improve student completion rates.

8 ~~(4)~~

9 (3) Reduce time to degree.

10 ~~(5)~~

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

12 (b) In order to receive funding under this program, the governing
13 board of a community college district shall demonstrate in its
14 application for funding that each participating community college
15 within the district will, in collaboration with the district as
16 necessary, develop a guided pathway plan that includes a plan to
17 implement all of the components for a guided pathway. The plan
18 shall include all of the following elements:

19 ~~(1) Establishes clear, measurable learning outcomes for its~~
20 ~~educational programs, including, but not limited to, the ability to~~
21 ~~earn an associate degree for transfer or a career technical education~~
22 ~~certification. A participating community college, in consultation~~
23 ~~with its faculty, shall, at a minimum, review its course offerings,~~
24 ~~including remedial courses and sequences of courses for the~~
25 ~~purpose of designing educational programs that create the shortest~~
26 ~~path for students to complete a guided pathway while maintaining~~
27 ~~the overall quality of these programs.~~

28 ~~(2) Requires use of multiple measures to determine each~~
29 ~~student's course placement and appropriate coursework needed to~~
30 ~~complete a guided pathway.~~

31 ~~(3) Establishes processes and procedures to ensure that each~~
32 ~~student receives consistent, targeted advising and support services~~
33 ~~for him or her to know the coursework necessary to successfully~~
34 ~~complete a guided pathway. These processes and procedures shall~~
35 ~~include, but not be limited to, monitoring the student's progress~~
36 ~~in completing the guided pathway.~~

37 ~~(1) A completed implementation and readiness assessment for~~
38 ~~the guided pathway, as provided by the chancellor for each~~
39 ~~participating college.~~

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

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

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

8 (A) How the community college district plans to work with the
9 governing board of school districts to ensure high school pupils
10 are prepared to enroll and complete college-level courses by the
11 time of their high school graduation, which may include, but not
12 necessarily be limited to, participating in dual enrollment programs
13 established pursuant to Section 76004.

14 (B) How the community college district plans to collaborate
15 with the University of California and the California State
16 University to develop ~~guided pathways~~ for transfer *pathways* to
17 the University of California and the California State University.

18 (C) How the basic skills program offered by the participating
19 community college will ensure that students who ~~need remediation~~
20 *are deemed unprepared for college level mathematics or English*
21 receive intensive curriculum support to complete a guided pathway
22 in a timely manner.

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

1 coordinate their purposes and outcome goals with the
2 implementation of the guided pathway plan.

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

6 *(C) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Budget Act of 2017*
7 *include a one-time appropriation to support the requirements of*
8 *this section.*

9 88912. (a) Commencing with the 2017–18 academic year,
10 each participating community college shall provide a grant award
11 to a student pursuant to subdivision (b). The purpose of the grant
12 award is to provide the student with additional financial aid to help
13 offset his or her total cost of community college attendance.

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

17 ~~(1) The student is a California resident or is exempt from paying~~
18 ~~nonresident tuition under Section 68130.5 or 76140. has received~~
19 *an award under the Full-Time Success Grant program established*
20 *pursuant to Schedule (1) of Item 6870-102-0001 of the Budget Act*
21 *of 2015 for each term in which he or she receives an award under*
22 *this section.*

23 ~~(2) The student maintains satisfactory academic progress at the~~
24 ~~community college. is enrolled in a program of study and has~~
25 ~~completed an education plan identifying courses, sequence of~~
26 ~~courses, key progress milestones, and other requirements the~~
27 ~~student must complete to earn an associate degree or career~~
28 ~~technical education certificate or meet transfer requirements.~~

29 (3) The student is not incarcerated.

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

33 ~~(5) The student has enrolled in at least 12 semester units or the~~
34 ~~equivalent in each term for which the grant is received.~~

35 ~~(6) The student is enrolled in a guided pathway, as determined~~
36 ~~by the community college.~~

37 ~~(7) The student is in financial need of the grant award, as~~
38 ~~determined by the community college.~~

39 (5) *The student maintains a grade point average of at least 2.0*
40 *and complies with either of the following:*

1 (A) Enrolls in 15 or more credit units per semester, or the
2 equivalent number of units per quarter, to be considered on track
3 to obtain an associate degree for transfer, or to otherwise transfer
4 to a four-year university, within two academic years.

5 (B) Enrolls in a sufficient number of units per semester or
6 quarter, as determined by the community college, to be considered
7 on track to receive a certificate for a career technical education
8 program within the published length of time.

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

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

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

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

25 (3) *The grant award shall be based upon the financial need of*
26 *the applicant, and shall not exceed the calculated financial need*
27 *for any individual applicant. The minimum level of financial need*
28 *of applicants shall be determined by the commission pursuant to*
29 *Section 69432.9.*

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

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

35 88913. (a) On or before April 1, 2019, the chancellor shall
36 report to the Legislature all of the following for the 2018–19 award
37 year:

38 (1) ~~The total number of grant award recipients who maintained~~
39 ~~satisfactory academic progress. met the requirements of paragraph~~
40 (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 88912.

1 (2) ~~The total number of grant award recipients who successfully~~
2 ~~met the unit completion requirements for satisfactory academic~~
3 ~~progress; met the requirements of paragraph (6) of subdivision (b)~~
4 ~~of Section 88912, disaggregated by recipients who are pursuing~~
5 ~~an associate degree for transfer or a career technical education~~
6 ~~certification, certificate, including the type of career technical~~
7 ~~education certification, certificate.~~

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

13 (4) *The number of grant award recipients who enrolled in and*
14 *successfully completed at least nine units in their major during*
15 *their first year of enrollment.*

16 (3)

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

18 (b) Student information reported pursuant to subdivision (a)
19 shall be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and
20 socioeconomic status.

21 (c) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under
22 subdivision (a) is inoperative on April 1, 2023, pursuant to Section
23 10231.5 of the Government Code.

24 (2) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
25 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
26 Code.

27 88914. The board of governors may adopt regulations to
28 administer the Community College Student Achievement Program.

29 88915. ~~This part shall not be operative in a fiscal year unless~~
30 ~~sufficient funding has been provided for this part for that fiscal~~
31 ~~year in the annual Budget Act or another statute.~~