

An act to add Part 54.8 (commencing with Section 88920) to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

SECTION 1. Part 54.8 (commencing with Section 88920) is added to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

PART 54.8. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUIDED PATHWAYS GRANT PROGRAM

88920. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) Students are more likely to graduate on time if they identify a major early on, have a clear outline of the courses required for completion, and are provided consistent ongoing guidance and support throughout their program of study.
- (b) California has made investments to improve student outcomes at community colleges by providing student intake and guidance services, requiring colleges to focus on closing achievement gaps, improving basic skills instruction and placements, providing enhanced student services for remedial students, and streamlining and simplifying the transfer process to four-year universities.
- (c) Providing community colleges with strategic, one-time state investments and technical assistance will enable colleges to integrate existing student-success programs and provide students with predictable course schedules and frequent feedback and support services to ensure that they can complete academic programs more efficiently.

88921. (a) There is hereby established the California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program under the administration of the chancellor's office. Grants awarded to community colleges pursuant to this part are intended to ensure integration of existing student-success programs and services and to build capacity at community colleges to develop clearly structured, coherent guided pathways programs.

- (b) The chancellor's office shall distribute grants, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to community colleges that satisfy the requirements of this part and any programmatic criteria, administrative guidelines, and other requirements developed by the chancellor's office to implement this part.
- (c) For purposes of this part, "chancellor's office" means the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.
- (d) For purposes of this part, a "guided pathways program" includes all of the following activities and practices:
 - (1) Clarifying paths to student end goals by doing both of the following:
 - (A) Simplifying students' choices with default program maps developed by faculty and advisors that show students a clear pathway to completion, further education, and employment in fields of importance to the region.
 - (B) Establishing transfer pathways through alignment of pathway courses and expected learning outcomes with transfer institutions, to optimize applicability of community college credits to university majors.
 - (2) Helping students choose and enter a pathway by doing both of the following:
 - (A) Bridging K-12 to higher education by ensuring early remediation in the final year of high school.
 - (B) Redesigning traditional remediation as an "on-ramp" to a program of study, which helps students explore academic and career options from the beginning of their college experience, aligns math and other foundation skills coursework with a student's program of study, and integrates and

contextualizes instruction to build academic and nonacademic foundation skills throughout the college-level curriculum, particularly in program “gateway” courses.

(3) Helping students stay on an academic path by doing both of the following:

(A) Supporting students through a strong advising process, embedded and ongoing in the pathway experience and supported by appropriate technology, to help students make informed choices, strengthen clarity about transfer and career opportunities at the end of their chosen college path, ensure that they develop an academic plan with predictable schedules, monitor their progress, and intervene if they go off track.

(B) Embedding academic and nonacademic supports throughout student programs to promote student learning and persistence.

(4) Ensuring students are learning by all of the following:

(A) Establishing program-level learning outcomes that are aligned with the requirements for success in employment and further education in a given field and applying the results of learning outcomes assessments to improve the effectiveness of instruction across programs.

(B) Integrating group projects, internships, and other applied learning experiences to enhance instruction and student success in courses across programs of study.

(C) Ensuring incorporation of effective teaching practice throughout the pathways.

88922. (a) From the funds provided for this part, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall allocate:

(1) Up to 10 percent of the total amount of these funds for statewide assistance and programmatic support to implement this part.

(2) All remaining funds shall be allocated as grants to participating community colleges.

(b) (1) The chancellor’s office shall award grants to participating community colleges from the funds described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) as follows:

(A) Twenty percent of these funds shall be awarded equally among all participating colleges.

(B) Thirty-five percent of these funds shall be awarded based on the percentage of full-time equivalent students at each participating college.

(C) Forty-five percent of these funds shall be awarded based on the percentage of students at each participating college that satisfy the requirements to receive federal Pell Grants and the requirements in Section 68130.5.

(2) The chancellor’s office may include additional measures or adjust the allocation percentages in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of paragraph (1) to accomplish the purposes of this part consistent with paragraph (3).

(3) The chancellor’s office shall notify and receive concurrence from the Department of Finance before including additional measures or adjusting the allocation percentages pursuant to paragraph (2) and providing these funds to participating community colleges. The department shall consult with the Legislative Analyst’s Office before determining whether to concur. The Director of Finance shall notify the Joint Legislative Budget Committee if the department intends to concur.

(c) Before the chancellor’s office may award grant funds to a participating community college, the college shall demonstrate its commitment to implement a guided pathways framework by completing all of the following:

(1) Submitting a letter to the chancellor’s office signed by, and expressing the commitment of, the president of the governing board of the community college district, the chief executive officer of the college, and the president of the college’s academic senate to adopt a guided pathways model.

(2) Notifying the chancellor’s office that the college has attended an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative workshop for guided pathways. The chancellor’s office shall ensure that community college representatives have sufficient access to an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership

Initiative workshop for guided pathways.

(3) Establishing and submitting to the chancellor's office a plan outlining the college's commitment to implement a guided pathways program and integrate existing student-success programs, including, but not limited to, the Basic Skills Initiative, the Student Success and Support Program established in Article 1 (commencing with Section 78210) of Chapter 2 of Part 48, student equity plans adopted pursuant to Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 78220) of Chapter 2 of Part 48, the Adult Education Block Grant Program established in Article 9 (commencing with Section 84900) of Chapter 5 of Part 50, and the Strong Workforce Program established in Part 54.5 (commencing with Section 88820).

(4) Submitting additional information that may be required by the chancellor's office, including an application developed by the chancellor's office, to assess a community college's commitment to implement a guided pathways program.

(d) If the chancellor's office determines that a participating community college has not sufficiently met the requirements of subdivision (c), the college may access available technical assistance opportunities and revise and resubmit the documentation required pursuant to subdivision (c) after receiving its grant funds.

(e) (1) The chancellor's office may establish programmatic criteria to release funding in stages to a participating community college based upon a determination by the chancellor's office that the college is making appropriate progress toward implementing a guided pathways program.

(2) The chancellor's office shall develop qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure early outcomes of guided pathways programs implemented pursuant to this part. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude the chancellor's office from using already available student success metrics.

(f) To the extent feasible, the chancellor's office shall utilize the structure and processes in place for the California Guided Pathways Project, including, but not limited to, the project's application, participation agreement, professional development, outcome measures, and technical assistance models.

(g) Participating community colleges may use grant funds to implement guided pathways programs for various purposes, including, but not limited to any, or any combination, including all, of the following:

(1) Faculty and staff release time to review and redesign guided pathways programs, instruction, and support services.

(2) Professional development in areas related to guided pathways.

(3) Administrative time to coordinate, communicate, and engage college stakeholders in the process of developing and implementing guided pathways programs.

(4) Upgrades to computer and student information systems to improve tracking of student progress.

(h) (1) The chancellor's office shall report to the Director of Finance and the Legislature, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, as follows:

(A) By July 1, 2018, provide a summary of the plans received by the chancellor's office pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (c).

(B) By each July 1 from 2019 to 2022, inclusive, provide an updated summary of each community college's progress toward implementing its plan established pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (c). The annual report due by July 1, 2022, shall include a summary of each participating community college's progress on the qualitative and quantitative indicators of early outcomes developed pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) or as otherwise required by the chancellor's office.

(2) Each of the reports in paragraph (1) shall include recommendations on any statutory or regulatory changes necessary to improve the ability of community colleges to implement their locally developed guided pathways programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

General Subject: California Community College Guided Pathways Grant 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.

This bill would establish the California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program under the administration of the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, which would require the chancellor's office to distribute grants, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to community colleges, who meet certain requirements, to integrate existing student-success programs and implement clearly structured, coherent guided pathways programs. The bill would require the chancellor to make specified annual reports to the Director of Finance and the Legislature regarding the California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program and include in these reports recommendations on any statutory or regulatory changes necessary to improve the ability of community colleges to implement their guided pathways programs.

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