



December 14, 2018

STATE POLICY AND ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

Members of the California State Legislature were sworn in on December 3, 2018, for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session. Legislative Rules provide members from December 3, 2018 through February 22, 2019 to introduce new legislation. To date, members have introduced 224 measures in the Senate and Assembly; of those, about 30 are of interest to community colleges. If history is our guide, we will see between about 200 measures affecting our system introduced by the deadline. Of the bills introduced thus far, staff have conducted a preliminary review and included short summaries of high priority bills below, under the Legislative Update. For details on any bill, please contact the Governmental Relations Division or visit the Legislative Counsel's website at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

In addition to monitoring and engaging in policy proposals, during the months of November and December the Government Relations Division participated in a number of activities, including:

- On November 29, 2018, Vice Chancellor Metune presented the Board of Governor's financial aid proposal to the California Student Aid Commission. Subsequently, the Commission took action to support a financial aid proposal that mirrors the Board request in a number of ways. The proposal from the Commission would accomplish the goals of providing more need-based aid to California Community College students and would help low-income students at our partner segments cover more of their non-tuition related costs of attendance.
- On Friday, November 30, 2018, Vice Chancellor Metune participated in an event hosted by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) on Modernizing California's Education Data System. You can view the event in its entirety and read the PPIC report on the PPIC website, [here](#). The discussion focused on the need for intersegmental data sharing and the structural challenges and cost barriers that have prevented California from developing such a system to date. The Chancellor's Office discussed the ways in which the California Community Colleges currently use data to drive decision-making and the opportunities expanded data sharing would provide for supporting the student journey.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The bills introduced to date highlight a continued legislative interest in academic programming that aligns to workforce needs, a focus on college affordability, and a desire to increase higher education coordination and data sharing. The Government Relations division will continue to review and, as appropriate, propose Chancellor's Office positions on bills as they move through the Legislative process.

Academic Programs

AB 30 (Holden) Community colleges: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships

This bill seeks to encourage greater community college participation in the Career and College Academic Pathways (CCAP) partnership program, established by AB 288 (Holden) of 2015, by reducing the administrative challenges related to program implementation. It also requires the Chancellor's Office to prepare a CCAP summary report every 5 years, and moves up the current summary report deadline to January 2, 2020. This bill is sponsored by the Community College League of California.

College Affordability

AB 2 (Santiago) Community colleges: California College Promise

This bill authorizes a community college to use California College Promise funding to waive fees for two academic years for eligible students. The Promise program, established by AB 19 (Santiago) of 2016, authorizes an eligible community college to waive some or all registration fees for first-time students taking 12 or more units. As a condition of utilizing Promise funds, a community college must meet all Promise program requirements, including outreach to high schools, maximizing need-based financial aid, participating in the federal loan program, complying with AB 705, and participating in the Guided Pathways program.

AB 140 (Cervantes) California Kickstart My Future Loan Forgiveness Program

This bill establishes the California Kickstart My Future Loan Forgiveness Program under the administration of the California Student Aid Commission. It provides, subject to an appropriation, student loan forgiveness awards to alleviate federal student loan debt for eligible college and university graduates, and specifies the conditions under which California graduates are eligible to receive an award and award amounts.

SB 52 (Atkins) The Cal Grant Program: Cal Grant C awards

This bill requires the California Student Aid Commission to establish an application deadline of September 2, of an academic year, for students to apply for a Cal Grant C award for that academic year.

Intersegmental Coordination and Data Sharing

AB 130 (Chiu) Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability

This bill establishes, until January 1, 2026, the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability (Office) to advise the Governor, Legislature, government entities and institutions of higher education. The Office would be housed within the Governor's Office and under the direction of an executive director which would be appointed by the Governor. Senate Rules and the Assembly Speaker would appoint a six-member public advisory board to the Office, and the chairs of the Senate Education and Assembly Higher Education committees would serve as ex officio members. The advisory board would conduct meetings, issue reports and review the performance of the Office. The Office itself would be responsible for reviewing state higher education goals and priorities, recommending cross-segmental initiatives and activities, assessing and advising on new CSU and UC campus locations, acting as a data clearinghouse, and reviewing UC and CSU eligibility pools.

SB 2 (Glazer) Statewide Longitudinal Student Database

This bill expresses legislative intent to establish the Statewide Longitudinal Student Database to collect and store data regarding individual students as they matriculate through P-20 and into the workforce. In preparation for this database, the California Postsecondary Education Commission is required to convene a review panel to examine its establishment, implementation, funding, and administration. The Commission shall make recommendations to the Legislature by July 1, 2021.

SB 3 (Allen) Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance

This bill would establish the Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance. The bill would give the office specified functions and responsibilities for purposes of statewide postsecondary education planning, oversight, data collection, and coordination. The bill requires the public postsecondary segments and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to submit specified data to the office so it may carry out its functions and responsibilities. The bill applies to the University of California only to the extent the Regents act by resolution to make it apply. To the extent the bill would impose additional duties on community college districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

PROPOSED SPONSORED LEGISLATION

The Government Relations Division is seeking the following statutory changes in the 2019 Education Omnibus bill.

Clinical Nursing Faculty Load Cap Exemption (Ed Code Section 87482)

In 2006, an exemption to the 67% cap for part time faculty was established for clinical nursing faculty (SB 1309, Scott); the law was renewed in 2014 (SB 860, Budget Committee). The law sunset on December 31, 2015. The exemption allowed part time clinical nursing faculty to be employed full time on a temporary basis for up to four consecutive semesters at one district. This exemption is necessary to ensure the continuity of education for students and to meet the requirements of clinical sites. Due to the long hours required in the clinical component (12 hour shifts) and clinical rotations lasting up to 16 weeks, part time faculty can quickly exceed the 67% cap which requires an instructor change in the middle of the rotation. Further, hospitals require multi hour orientations for all care providers and constant changes in faculty require costly additional orientations. Faculty turnover can also erode the hospital's confidence in the institution and instructors. Previous reporting from the Chancellor's Office shows, over the four-year reporting period, 21 colleges reported having used the 67% exemption. Out of those 21 colleges, a total of 155 adjunct nursing faculty were hired during the four-year period. The Government Relations Division, at the request of the California Community College Independents, proposes to seek legislation to reinstate this exemption on a permanent basis with associated annual reporting.

Nursing Multi- criteria Screening Tool (Ed Code Section 78261.5)

AB 1559 (Berryhill, 2007) allowed community college nursing programs to use a multi-criteria screening tool when the number of applicants exceeds program capacity. The criteria includes factors such as academic degrees or diplomas held, grade point average, volunteer experience, being a first generation student, refugee or veteran status, low income background and proficiency in languages other than English. AB 548 (Salas, 2014) further extended the use of the multi-criteria screening tool to January 1, 2020. Since that extension, the Chancellor's Office has collected more data that demonstrates a reduction in attrition for programs that use the multi-criteria screening tool and more nursing programs are using the multi-criteria screening tool now than in 2014. There are 71 nursing programs in California Community Colleges, 41 use the multi-criteria screening tool. The Government Relations division recommends seeking language in the higher education omnibus bill to remove or extend sunset date.

Priority Enrollment for Homeless Students (Ed Code Section 66025.9(a))

AB 801 (Bloom, 2016) requires colleges to grant priority enrollment to students who are homeless youth. These students must be under 25 years of age and verified as homeless at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the receipt of his or her application for admission. Due to legislative committee precedent, any bill that extends priority enrollment to a new group of students is subject to a sunset date. This provision is set to expire January 1, 2020. Data available through CCCApply shows 37,000 students as homeless, it is unclear how many of those students have been verified and received priority enrollment. The Government Relations Division recommends seeking language in the higher education omnibus bill to remove or extend sunset date.

Authority to use Design Build Contracts (Ed Code Sections 81700 – 81708)

Design build contracts allow districts to award a construction and design contract to a single bidder instead of separate contract bids. The same bidder will provide architectural and construction services, which results in more efficient project management that saves districts time and money. The law authorizing California Community College districts to use design build contracts is set to expire on January 1, 2020. In 2015, AB 1358 (Dababneh) extended the authority for K-12 districts to use design build contracts to 2025. Community colleges have been slower than other public agencies to utilize design build, but several districts have been using this process for construction projects with successful results. The Government Relations Division proposes to seek legislation in the higher education omnibus bill to extend the sunset date. Other groups within the California Community College system may pursue separate legislation, and in such case, the division recommends supporting that legislation.

ADVOCATES LIST SERVE

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