California Community College Guided Pathways Program (Adds Education Code Sections 88920-88922)

Sec. 1. Part 54.9. California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program 88920.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
(1) 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;

(2) California has made investments to improve student outcomes at community colleges through 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;

(3) Providing community colleges with strategic, one-time state investments and technical assistance will enable colleges to integrate existing success-focused programs and provide students with predictable course schedules and frequent feedback and support services to ensure students can complete their academic programs more efficiently.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that community colleges integrate existing student-success programs and implement an institution-wide approach to student success based on the guided pathways model, including, but not limited to:

(1) Clarifying pathways to student end goals by simplifying student choices with program maps, and establishing transfer pathways with four-year institutions.

(2) Helping students choose and enter a pathway by creating stronger bridges from high school to community college, changing remediation instruction to better integrate student’s program of study, and supporting students as they explore academic and career options.

(3) Helping students stay on a pathway by embedding advising, academic, and other supports in the pathway, monitoring student progress, and intervening when students are off track.
(4) Supporting student learning by establishing program-level learning outcomes aligned with student goals for transfer or employment, integrating applied learning experiences within the pathway, and incorporating effective teaching practices throughout the pathway.

88921 (a) There is hereby established the California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program to be administered by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. The grants are intended to ensure integration of existing programs and services and to build capacity at the community colleges to develop clearly structured, coherent program pathways.

(b) For purposes of this part, “chancellor's office” means the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

(c) 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.

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

(1) An amount up to 10 percent for statewide assistance and programmatic support to carry out the intent of this Part.

(2) All other funds shall be allocated as grants to community colleges that satisfy the requirements of this part and any California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program programmatic criteria, administrative guidelines, and other requirements developed by the chancellor's office.

(b) The chancellor's office shall allocate grant funds as follows:

(1) 20 percent of the total allocation shall be distributed equally among all participating colleges.

(2) 35 percent of the total allocation shall be distributed based on the percentage of full-time equivalent students at each participating college.

(3) 45 percent of the total allocation shall be distributed based on the percentage of students at each participating college that would qualify to receive federal Pell Grants, including students meeting the requirements set forth in Education Code Section 68130.5.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), the chancellor’s office may include other measures or adjust the allocation percentages to accomplish the objectives of this subdivision.
(5) The chancellor shall notify and receive concurrence from the Department of Finance, prior to including additional measures or adjusting the allocation percentages pursuant to paragraph (4) and prior to apportioning these funds to community college districts. The Department of Finance shall consult with the Legislative Analyst’s Office prior to determining whether to concur with the use of additional measures or adjusting the allocation percentages.

(6) The Director of Finance shall notify the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of his or her intent to concur with the use of additional measures or adjust the allocation percentages pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5).”

(c) Prior to the chancellor’s office apportioning funding to a community college, a community college shall demonstrate their commitment towards implementing a guided pathways framework by completing the following:

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

(2) Notification that the community 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) An implementation plan outlining the community college’s commitment to implement a guided pathways program and integrate existing student-success programs, including, but not limited to, the Student Success and Student Support Program, Student Equity Program, Basic Skills Initiative, Strong Workforce Program, and the Adult Education Block Grant.

(d) If the chancellor’s office determines that a community college has not sufficiently met the requirements of subdivision (c), the college may access any available technical assistance opportunities and may subsequently revise and resubmit the documentation required pursuant to subdivision (c).

(e) To the extent feasible, the chancellor’s office shall leverage the process already underway through the California Guided Pathways Project, including, but not limited to the application, participation agreement, professional development, and technical assistance models.

(f) The chancellor shall report to the Director of Finance and the Legislature on the following:

(1) The allocation of funds by July 1, 2018.
(2) A summary of the approved plans by July 1, 2019.

(3) A summary of follow-up reports on July 1, 2020, July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, summarizing each district’s progress toward implementing their approved plan.

(4) Each of the reports in subparagraph (f) shall include any statutory and regulatory changes necessary to improve the ability for community colleges to implement locally-developed guided pathways.