

Item 9

(Information Item)

Update on Learning Aligned Employment Program

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the Learning-Aligned Employment Program established in the 2021-22 State budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action is needed.

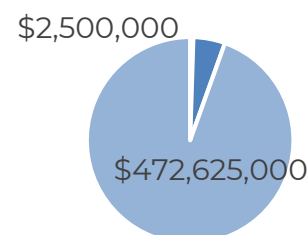
BACKGROUND:

The Learning-Aligned Employment Program (LAEP) was established in the 2021 Budget Act (Assembly Bill 132, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021) with a total appropriation of \$200 million. The program offers eligible students at public colleges and universities the opportunity to earn money to help defray their educational costs, while gaining education-aligned, career-related employment.

An additional \$300 million appropriation was included the Governor's January 2022-23 budget proposal. If the \$300 million is approved in the final 2022-23 State Budget, a total \$500 million appropriation is available for the LAEP. These funds would be available for expenditure by participating institutions until June 30, 2031. The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) will administer the program in partnership with the office of the President of the University of California, the office of the Chancellor of the California State University, and the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

The Commission may use up to 0.5% of the funds (or \$2.5 million) to support its costs of administering the program. The Commission shall allocate the remaining funds (or \$497,500,000) to participating institutions based on their share of students receiving a federal Pell Grant in the most recent prior fiscal year for which data is available. Institutions may use no more than 5% of funds they receive (or a total of \$24,875,000 shared by all participating institutions) to support the institutional costs of administering the program.

- Commission Administrative Costs (0.5%)
- Total Institution Administrative Costs (5%)



California Student Aid Commission

Student Eligibility

The LAEP will allow a participating student placement in an educationally beneficial position that relates to the student's area of study, career objective, or the exploration of career objectives. The program will include and emphasize positions for students with employers that may offer full-time employment opportunities after graduation, or opportunities to connect with other employers that may offer full-time employment opportunities after graduation, within their areas of study.

Eligible students in the following categories will be given priority for available learning-aligned employment opportunities:

- First generation college students
- Current or former foster youth
- Students who are homeless or at risk of being homeless

Further prioritization for available learning-aligned employment opportunities will be given to eligible students meeting these priority criteria who are also majoring in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) discipline.

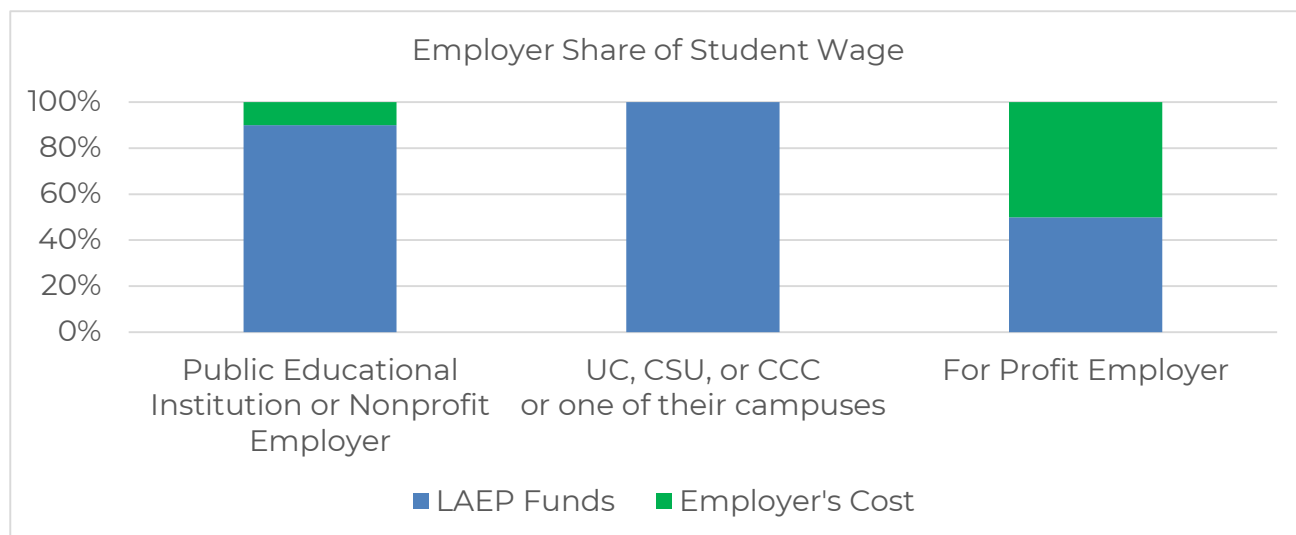
LAEP Participation Agreement

Participating institutions must sign an institutional agreement with the Commission before June 30, 2022 with the expectation that the program is implemented in the 2022- 23 academic year. The Commission anticipates providing the Participation Agreement for interested institutions in early March.

Employer Eligibility

Institutions will develop agreements with employers willing to contribute resources toward a percentage share of student compensation. If the employer is a public educational institution or nonprofit corporation, the program shall provide up to 90% of the student's compensation. If the employer is the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, or one of its respective campuses, the program may provide 100% of the student's compensation. If the employer is a for profit corporation, the program shall provide up to 50% of the student's compensation.

California Student Aid Commission



LAEP Workgroup

The Student Aid Commission meets weekly with campus representatives from the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges who work in the financial aid, career or student employment, and other departments. The workgroup endeavors to clarify the LAEP program requirements, share best practices, identify potential solutions, and develop the LAEP Participation Agreement.

Philanthropic Partnerships and LAEP Virtual Roundtable Convening

Commission staff from the Government and External Relations Unit and Program Administration and Service Division are meeting with community and employer partners to foster relationships in support of the LAEP.

In partnership with Education First, the Commission will host a Virtual Roundtable Convening on March 21, 2022. The event aims to:

- Build community and share best practices across sectors on work-based learning programs and employer engagement partnerships to inform the design and launch of the LAEP
- Center the voice, needs and experiences of first generation, current/former foster youth and current/at-risk homeless students
- Share strategies for supporting campus participation and proper management of funds
- Identify partnership and relationship-building opportunities with other mission-aligned work-based learning programs, as well as philanthropic partners

California Student Aid Commission

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

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ATTACHMENT(S):

Learning-Aligned Employment Program Presentation Presented on March 10, 2022