

## SUMMARY OF PRIORITY TRACKED LEGISLATION

October 17, 2023



### SPONSORED & SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

#### **AB 1400 (Bryan) – College Access Tax Credit Fund: community college student transfers: Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

**Summary:** Starting with the 2024-25 academic year, this bill refocuses the use of funds generated by the College Access Tax Credit from Cal Grant B recipients to California Community College transfer students with the greatest unmet financial need attending regionally accredited out-of-state Historically Black Colleges and Universities that have a transfer agreement with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Students must indicate their intent to return to California after graduation as a condition of receiving the grant. By creating a smaller pool of eligible students, it facilitates substantive increases to these awards (up to \$5,000 one-time); thus, ensuring that the program can meet its goal of providing additional financial aid to low-income students and help them to cover a larger portion of their annual cost of attendance.

**Status:** CHAPTERED

**Position:** Sponsor

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

#### **AB 1540 (Fong, M.) – AB 540/CADAA Integration**

**Summary:** This bill requires community colleges and California State University campuses, and requests the University of California and independent institutions of higher education, to accept the AB 540 affidavit provided by the Commission via the California Dream Act Application. Additionally, the bill also requires that institutions then share AB 540 affidavits received via the Dream Act Application with departments on campus that require it. The bill also makes clear that institutions shall retain the ability to verify affidavits, and offer a campus-based form to students that do not apply for aid through the California Dream Act Application.

**Status:** CHAPTERED

**Position:** Sponsor

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

#### **AB 274 (Bryan) – CalWORKs: CalFresh: eligibility: income exclusions**

**Summary:** This bill exempts any grant, award, scholarship, loan, or fellowship from consideration as income or resources when determining CalWORKs eligibility or grant amounts, for 12 months following the receipt of the funds. This bill also requires the State Department of Social Services (CDSS, to the extent permitted by federal law, regulation, or guidance) to exercise a federal option to exclude, for purposes of calculating a household's income under CalFresh, any type of income that the department excludes when determining eligibility or benefits for CalWORKs. This type of income is anything the state excludes when determining eligibility or benefits for TANF cash assistance. The bill also requires the department to implement these provisions through an all-county letter or

similar instruction until regulations are adopted. The bill include double-jointed language with AB 372 (Nguyen, S.).

**Status:** **Inactive File**

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.)

#### **AB 278 (Reyes) – High Schools: Dream Resource Center Grant Program**

**Summary:** This bill establishes the Dream Resource Center Grant Program for the purpose of providing pupils, including undocumented pupils, in grades 9 to 12 with specified resources, including financial aid support. Additionally, this bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to review and award grants based on a tiered point system that prioritizes local educational agencies with multiple school sites, in underserved areas, and local educational agencies that serve a large number of English learners and pupils who eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The bill also requires CDE to submit a report to the Legislature by June 1, 2026 on the pilot's outcomes.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Enhance early awareness of financial aid through outreach programs that help students and families plan for the total cost of attendance.

#### **AB 680 (Rubio, B.) – Public postsecondary education: nonresident tuition: exemption**

**Summary:** This bill authorizes, as an alternative to the existing requirements to qualify for the AB 540 exemption from nonresident fees, either completion of 60 semester units of credit or 90 quarter units of credit at a California community college, or attainment of an associate degree for transfer to meet AB 540 requirements and attain AB 540 status.

**Status:** **Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities equitable to those of their peers.

#### **AB 870 (Arambula) – Public social services: benefits for students**

**Summary:** This bill requires CDSS to convene a workgroup that meets quarterly, comprised of relevant stakeholders as needed to share best practices, updates, challenges, or other topics related to programs and services offered by CDSS that may be available to students attending a campus of an institution of public higher education.

**Status:** **Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.)

### **AB 928 (Rendon) – CalFresh Data Dashboard: students**

**Summary:** This bill requires CDSS to update its CalFresh Data Dashboard on an annual basis and as additional data become available about students enrolled in postsecondary education. The Dashboard publishes certain data specific to students' receipt of CalFresh benefits to assist in monitoring information about access to CalFresh by students enrolled in an institution of higher education.

**Status:** CHAPTERED

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.)

### **AB 1393 (Calderon) – California Dream Act: Food Support Pilot Program**

**Summary:** This bill requires the Student Aid Commission to establish the Food Support Pilot Program for four years to provide food support grants to eligible students who submit a complete California Dream Act application and receive financial assistance under the California Dream Act. It specifies that the award shall be equivalent to the maximum amount appropriated to CalFresh recipients each year of the program.

**Status:** Senate Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.)

### **AB 1514 (Reyes) – Public social services: student eligibility**

**Summary:** This bill requires CDSS to convene a workgroup to develop recommendations that allow data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be shared with all county welfare departments to allow students to apply for and receive public social services. It requires administrative and statutory changes allowing FAFSA data, and any other student data from applications administered by the Student Aid Commission, to prepopulate information into public social services applications from students. It also requires CDSS to ensure that the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) allows all county office eligibility workers to view, transfer, and process all CalFresh applications via CalSAWS to allow students to apply for benefits in their home county before moving, or, in the county of their school.

**Status:** Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.)

### **SB 633 (Gonzalez) – California DREAM Loan Program: DREAM grants**

**Summary:** This bill authorizes, commencing with the 2024–25 academic year, participating institutions to award DREAM grants to eligible students if the institution’s DREAM revolving loan program has unawarded funds.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Support

**Alignment with Policy Priorities:** Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities equitable to those of their peers.

## **LEGISLATION WITH DIRECT IMPACT TO THE COMMISSION**

### **AB 25 (McCarty) - Middle Class Scholarship Program**

**Summary:** Requires the Department of Finance, following a growth of General Fund revenues for two consecutive fiscal years, to fund the cost of the Middle Class Scholarship Program, as determined by the Commission, over the five fiscal years following that growth. The bill also expresses the intent of the Legislature to fully fund the Cal Grant Reform Act before funding the Middle Class Scholarship Program.

**Status:** **Senate Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 91 (Alvarez) - Community colleges: exemption from nonresident tuition fee: residence near the California-Mexico border**

**Summary:** This bill establishes a pilot program to allow low-income students who are residents of Mexico, to be eligible for in-state tuition rates at specified community colleges near the San Diego-Mexico border. Additionally, this bill requires that the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges enter into an attendance agreement with a nationally or internationally accredited university located in the State of Baja California, Mexico, that provides reciprocal rights and benefits under this bill to California residents attending a university in the State of Baja California.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 238 (Muratsuchi) - California Student Teacher Support Grant Program**

**Summary:** This bill establishes the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program to compensate teacher candidates during their required student teacher hours as part of their teacher preparation programs. This program would be administered by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing via request for applications process to all local educational agencies.

**Status:** **Inactive File**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 263 (Jones-Sawyer) - Public postsecondary education: pilot program for free cost of education: working group**

**Summary:** This bill requires the Student Aid Commission to convene a working group until July 1, 2026, consisting of representatives from the State Department of Education (CDE) and the public higher education segments, as well as faculty, staff, and students from each public segment to develop recommendations for the creation of a free college pilot program that covers both tuition and fees and non-tuition costs. The bill requires a report to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2026, and specifies items for inclusion in the report.

**Status:** **Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 320 (Lee) – Student Aid Commissioners**

**Summary:** This bill increases the number of Governor appointed student Commissioners from 2 to 4, one for each segment of higher education.

**Status:** **Senate Education Committee (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 376 (Villapudua) – Cal Grant C: driver training programs: commercial motor vehicles**

**Summary:** This bill authorizes Cal Grant C awards for entry-level driver training programs of less than 4 months, current law specifies that eligible Cal Grant C programs cannot be less than 4 months, and requires the Commission to classify an institution as a qualifying institution if its driver training program has a graduation rate of at least 30%, is listed on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration training provider registry, and has been approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). It also requires the Commission to consult with the BPPE to submit a report to the Legislature by April 1, 2027 that includes several data points related to the impact of the pilot program. The bill repeals these provisions on January 1, 2028.

**Status:** **Vetoed**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 638 (McCarty) – Golden State Teacher Grant Program**

**Summary:** This bill makes funds appropriated for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program in the Budget Acts of 2022 and 2023 available for encumbrance or expenditure by the Commission until June 30, 2028. It also requires recipients to commit to work for four years in a shortage area at any California public or nonpublic school, instead of a priority school, as determined by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. This bill also requires the Commission to partner with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to conduct an evaluation (and then report findings to the Legislature and Department of Finance every two years starting with December 31, 2025) of the program for purpose of determining its effectiveness. Lastly, the bill also requires the Commission to collect and report on demographic data on recipients.

**Status:** **Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

#### **AB 746 (Sanchez) - Learning-Aligned Employment Program: eligibility**

**Summary:** This bill removes research centers and institutions operated by public postsecondary institutions as allowable employers in the Learning-Aligned Employment Program, and instead broadens the program by allowing public campuses that provide employment experience related to the student's major or provide opportunities for skill attainment necessary for employment within their areas of study after graduation.

**Status:** **Vetoed**

**Position:** Watch

#### **AB 789 (Berman) – Cal Grants: satisfactory academic progress**

**Summary:** This bill establishes a common set of satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards to ensure that all California students, regardless of the campus are provided with the same flexibility provided under federal law and requires minimum SAP communication standards regarding policies and appeals processes. It also specifies criteria for how SAP appeals are accepted and handled, and prohibits additional requirements that are more restrictive than those that are federally mandated. Lastly, the bill clarifies that institutions are not precluded from requiring a student on "financial aid probation" (as defined federally) to comply with the terms of the student's academic plan to maintain financial aid eligibility.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Watch

#### **AB 888 (Cervantes) – Student financial aid: immigrants seeking asylum**

**Summary:** Contingent upon an appropriation, this bill provides Cal Grant eligibility to noncitizens who have filed a designated application for asylum and have a valid employment authorization document and social security number.

**Status:** **Senate Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense**

**Position:** Watch

#### **AB 1062 (Santiago) - Public postsecondary education: California State University: tuition**

**Summary:** This bill prohibits charging tuition or mandatory systemwide fees at a California State University (CSU) campus for up to two academic years to resident California Community College transfer students who complete an associate degree for transfer and demonstrate financial need. It requires the CSU Chancellor's Office to distribute funding to each campus to offset the costs of waiving tuition and mandatory systemwide fees. Implementation is contingent on an appropriation by the Legislature.

**Status:** **Assembly Higher Education Committee (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 1142 (Fong, M.) - Postsecondary education: Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in California**

**Summary:** This bill establishes the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in California, an independent state agency to serve as an advisory body for the State Legislature and the Governor on matters related to higher education policy.

**Status:** **Assembly Higher Education Committee (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 1237 (Petrie-Norris) - Student financial aid: California Public Interest Veterinary Debt Relief Program**

**Summary:** This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establishes the California Public Interest Veterinary Debt Relief Program under the administration of the Commission to award funds to California-licensed veterinarians who agree to specified terms. The bill requires the Commission to prepare a report regarding program outcomes by March 31, 2026, and each year thereafter.

**Status:** **Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **ACR 16 (Fong, M.) - Needs of opportunity youth**

**Summary:** This measure declares that the Legislature recognizes the importance of creating pathways to success for California's opportunity youth and the need to develop a statewide comprehensive plan that will reduce persistent economic inequities endured by California's opportunity youth, including removing barriers to access student financial aid programs.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Watch

### **SB 223 (Menjivar) - Pupil personnel services: child welfare and attendance services**

**Summary:** This bill allows the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to approve a professional preparation program offered by a local educational agency for candidates seeking a services credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services in child welfare and attendance services, if it meets program quality and effectiveness standards adopted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Watch

### **SB 242 (Skinner) – California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program**

**Summary:** This bill prohibits, to the extent permitted by federal law, the deposit of funds and investment returns accrued in a HOPE trust fund account from being considered as income or assets when determining eligibility and benefit amounts for any means-tested program (including Cal Grant, Chafee Grant, Middle Class Scholarship, and other financial aid programs) until an eligible youth withdraws or transfers the funds from the HOPE trust fund account. The bill would become operative on July 1, 2024, or on the date that CDSS

notifies the Legislature that the Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) can perform the necessary automation to implement these provisions, or no automation is necessary, whichever date is later.

**Status:** **Assembly Human Services Committee (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

**SB 307 (Ashby) – Middle Class Scholarship: community colleges: current and former foster youth**

**Summary:** This bill expands the Middle Class Scholarship program to allow current or former foster youth enrolled in a community college pursuing to transfer to a four-year institution, an associate degree, or career technical education certificate to have 100% of their unmet need covered.

**Status:** **Assembly Higher Education Committee (2-year bill, but elements of the bill were adopted in the 2023 State Budget)**

**Position:** Watch

**SB 886 (Committee on Education) – Postsecondary education: omnibus bill**

**Summary:** This bill is the annual higher education omnibus clean-up bill and proposes technical, non-controversial amendments to existing law in the education code. Specifically, this clarifies that an organization that is not part of a Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO), but has a written partnership agreement with the Commission or a RCO, may offer free local and regional workshops through the Cash for College Program. This bill also removes several reporting requirements by the Commission for defunded programs.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Watch

**OTHER TRACKED LEGISLATION**

**AB 94 (Davies) - Administration of public social services: blocked telephone calls**

**Summary:** This bill prohibits a call, made by or on behalf of a county for the purposes of administering public social services programs, to an applicant or recipient of benefits from blocking caller identification information and would require the call to display a telephone number.

**Status:** **Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

**AB 311 (Santiago) – California Food Assistance Program eligibility and benefits**

**Summary:** This bill removes the 55 years of age or older limitation to be eligible for the CalFresh program and makes any individual eligible for the program if the individual's immigration status is the sole basis for their ineligibility for CalFresh benefits.

**Status:** **Senate Human Services Committee (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 605 (Arambula) - California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program**

**Summary:** This bill establishes the California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program, under CDSS, creates the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Expansion Fund in the State Treasury, and specifies various program implementation requirements.

**Status:** **Assembly Appropriations Committee – Held in Suspense (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 610 (Holden) – Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program: free youth transit passes**

**Summary:** This bill, upon appropriation from the Legislature, creates the Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program, administered by the Department of Transportation to award grants to transit agencies for the costs of creating, designing, developing, advertising, distributing, and implementing free youth transit passes to persons attending public institutions.

**Status:** **Inactive File**

**Position:** Watch

### **AB 712 (Carrillo, W.) - CalFresh: hot and prepared foods**

**Summary:** This bill requires CDSS to seek all available federal waivers and approvals to maximize food choices for CalFresh recipients, including hot and prepared foods ready for immediate consumption.

**Status:** **CHAPTERED**

**Position:** Watch

### **SB 245 (Hurtado) – California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits**

**Summary:** This bill removes the 55 years of age or older limitation to be eligible for the CalFresh program if the individual's immigration status is the sole basis for ineligibility for CalFresh benefits and makes any individual in this situation eligible for CalFresh.

**Status:** **Assembly Human Services Committee (2-year bill)**

**Position:** Watch

### **SB 600 (Menjivar) – California CalFresh Minimum Benefit Adequacy Act of 2023**

**Summary:** This bill establishes the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit (MNB) Program to raise the minimum monthly benefit to \$50. This bill also requires CDSS to adjust for inflation.

**Status:** **Assembly Human Services Committee (2-year bill, but partially funded in the 2023 State Budget)**

**Position:** Watch