

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2681 (O'Donnell) – As Amended April 14, 2016

SUBJECT: Public education: California College Promise Grant Program

SUMMARY: Establishes the California College Promise Grant Program (Program) to provide planning grants to school districts and California Community College (CCC) districts to establish a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes the Program to provide planning grants to school districts and CCC districts to establish a CCAP. Provides that, subject to appropriation in the Budget Act, a grant may be awarded under this section to a school district or CCC district that has met requirements, as outlined below, and has certified its intention to establish a CCAP partnership no later than the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the grant is received. Provides that a grant awarded may be used to cover costs incurred for the CCAP partnership and to inform parents and students about opportunities that are available through the CCAP partnership.
- 2) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) and the CCC Chancellor (CCCCO) to administer the Program and requires the SPI and CCCCCO to establish the grant application process and the criteria for determining the amount of each grant. Provides that the maximum amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be \$25,000 per CCAP partnership.
- 3) Sunsets all of the aforementioned on January 1, 2022.

EXISTING LAW: Establishes the CCAP partnership for the purpose of offering or expanding dual enrollment opportunities for students who may not already be college bound or who are underrepresented in higher education, with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for career technical education or preparation for transfer, improving high school graduation rates, or helping high school pupils achieve college and career readiness.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This bill appropriates \$1,000,000 for this purpose.

COMMENTS: *Purpose of this bill.* Last year, the Legislature passed AB 288 (Holden, Chapter 618, Statutes of 2015), which established the CCAP partnership. Through the partnership, CCC districts and school districts may work together to offer or expand dual enrollment opportunities for students who may not already be college bound or who are underrepresented in higher education, with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for career technical education or preparation for transfer, improving high school graduation rates, or helping high school pupils achieve college and career readiness.

Existing law requires the CCAP partnership agreement to outline the terms of the partnership and include, but not necessarily be limited to, the total number of high school students to be served and the total number of full-time equivalent students projected to be claimed by the community college district for those students; the scope, nature, time, location, and listing of community college courses to be offered; and criteria to assess the ability of pupils to benefit from those courses. The CCAP partnership agreement shall also establish protocols for information sharing,

in compliance with all applicable state and federal privacy laws, joint facilities use, and parental consent for high school pupils to enroll in community college courses.

The cost of fulfilling these planning requirements may discourage districts from establishing partnerships. This means that the enhanced opportunities provided by the partnership would not be available to the students in those districts.

This bill provides planning grants of up to \$25,000 per partnership to help cover the costs of the required planning activities. In addition, planning grants may be used to inform parents and students of the opportunities available through the partnership. The bill appropriates \$1 million for this purpose, which would fund a minimum of 40 partnerships. The bill requires the grant program to be administered by the CCCCCO and the SPI.

Related legislation. AB 1741 (Rodriguez) was heard and approved by this Committee on April 12, 2015. AB 1741 establishes the California College Promise Innovation Grant Program to provide funds to CCC districts for the purpose of establishing regional Promise programs that, among other activities, establish partnerships with school districts and universities. This bill appears to complement the provisions of AB 1741; authors may wish to coordinate efforts.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on File

Opposition

None on File

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