

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 1636 (Solache) – As Amended March 25, 2026

[Note: This bill is double referred to the Assembly Committee on Education, where the Committee will hear it as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Cerritos Community College District: data sharing

SUMMARY: Permits Cerritos Community College District until January 1, 2032, to enter into a data sharing agreement with local education agencies to provide K-12 students with a pathway to automatically receive a community college student record for the expressed purpose of enrolling in college coursework at a California Community College. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Defines for purposes of the measure the following:
 - a) “Chancellor’s Office” means the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor’s Office;
 - b) “District” means the Cerritos Community College District (district); and,
 - c) “Partnering local education agency” means a school district, county office of education, or school district, that:
 - i) Has a College and Career Access Pathways partnership with the district or partners with the district to provide assistance to K-12 student and their families in applying and attending college; and,
 - ii) Is geographically located within the service area of district.
- 2) Requires the Chancellor’s Office to develop or approve a form to identify the K-12 student identifiable information necessary to create a community college student record for community college course enrollment. The form is to utilize data required to create the record through OpenCCC Student Account and CCCApply application. The form created by the Chancellor’s Office will be used by the district and the partnering local education agency for the exchange of student information through a data exchange agreement.
- 3) Permits the governing board of the district and the governing board of the partnering local education agency to enter into a data sharing agreement for the purpose of sharing personally identifiable student information for the limited and express purpose of creating a community college student record to allow K-12 students to seamlessly enroll into college courses offered by the district. Data shared pursuant to the data sharing agreement shall be done in a manner that is in compliance with state and federal privacy laws.
- 4) Limits the Chancellor’s Office and the district to only use the data shared between the district and the local partnering education agency to the expressed purpose of creating a community college student record to allow K-12 students to seamlessly enroll into college courses offered by the district.

- 5) Requires the data sharing agreement to include a mechanism by which the local partnering education agency receives the consent of either the student, or the student's parent or guardian. The consent shall explicitly permit the sharing of the students' identifiable information from the local partnering education agency to the district and then to the Chancellor's Office for the purpose of creating a community college student record to allow K-12 students to seamlessly enroll into college courses offered by the district.
- 6) Authorizes the district to compile and transmit data received from the local partnering education agency through batch processing that leverages existing system capabilities used in limited context to create a of creating a community college student record to allow K-12 students to seamlessly enroll into college courses offered by the district.
- 7) Requires the Chancellor's Office by January 1, 2023 to submit a report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the data sharing agreement in its ability to successfully create a community college student record to allow a K-12 student to seamlessly enroll into college courses offered by the district. The report will be compiled and submitted to the Legislature in compliance with Government Code Section 9795.
- 8) Sunsets the data sharing agreement between the district and a local education agency pursuant to the measure, on or before January 1, 2032.
- 9) Finds and declares the need for a specific exclusion in statute rather than a general statute, as defined, is warranted as the district has a unique population of first-generation college students, the district operates an integrated college-going partnership with all high school maintained by the district, and has develop a comprehensive onboarding and student success framework that would enable the implementation and evaluation of an automatic registration pilot program.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the California Community Colleges (CCC) under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The CCC shall be comprised of community college districts (Education Code (EDC) Section 70900).
- 2) Authorizes the Board of Governors of the CCC to adopt regulations that permit the board of trustees of each CCC district to allow for the electronic submission of student applications, student residency determination forms, and any other form. The electronic form will require the applicants and the students to be informed of the relative security of the information they are electronically submitting (EDC Section 70901.1).
- 3) Creates for each CCC district a board of trustees, known as the governing board, and authorizes the governing board to establish, maintain, operate, and govern each CCC within their district in accordance with state and federal law, as specified. The governing board may initiate and carry on any program, activity, or may otherwise act in any manner that is not in conflict or inconsistent with any law and that is not in conflict with the purpose of a CCC district, as specified. (EDC Section 70902).
- 4) Establishes the Individual Privacy Act, which declares that the right to privacy is a personal and fundamental right protected by Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of California

and by the United States Constitution and that all individuals have a right of privacy in information pertaining to them. (Civil Code Section 1798)

- 5) Protects the privacy of student education records in federal law with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The law applies to all schools (elementary, secondary, and postsecondary) that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents and the student (depending on the age) certain rights with respect to the disclosure of the pupil's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99).
- 6) Establishes the California State University (CSU) Direct Admission Program between CSU and local education agencies for the purpose of providing direct admission letters to students who meet the admission requirements of the CSU. After establishing a transcript-informed pupil account on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform, a student will be informed as to whether they meet the admission requirements at participating CSU campuses and shall be provided a letter describing the enrollment procedures the pupil needs to complete to successfully enroll at the designated CSU campus (EDC Section 66209).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Author's statement.* The author indicates "AB 1636 addresses a barrier high school graduates face to successfully transition from high school to community college despite their intention to enroll. While the systems are busy collecting data, students are struggling with the lengthy and confusing college application process, especially those first in their families to attend college. For students within the Cerritos Community College District, the existing CCCApply system adds unintentional friction. The CCCApply platform duplicates information already captured in the K12 data systems and often fails to process applications correctly for undocumented students, those without a Social Security number, or valid forms of identification."

The author further conveys, "AB 1636 builds on this success and authorizes Cerritos College to create a "ready-to-enroll" student record for every high school student in the College District's service and geographical area. By creating a student record, using existing student data and data systems, in partnership with K-12 districts, the bill offers high school students the immediate support needed to onboard, including assistance in applying for financial aid. The bill doesn't do away with existing data collecting systems or college applications, and it doesn't mandate students to enroll in college or at Cerritos College. It removes another barrier to higher education and ensures higher education is within reach for high school students, should they choose to attend college."

Cerritos Community College District (district). Established in 1955, the district is a single community college district located within the county of Los Angeles and serves "the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and South Gate, as well as portions of Bell Gardens, East Compton, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Whittier."¹ In the 2024-2025 academic year, the district enrolled 35,577 students; of which 17,015 were full-time and 3,417 were high school students enrolled in a College and

¹ <https://www.cerritos.edu/about/default.htm>

Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment programs.² The district received \$246,005,438 in state, federal, and local revenues, or a total of \$14,458 per full-time student.³

Since the Great Recession of 2010, the CCC system has focused on recruitment and retention to stem and recoup the loss of enrollment of students. While these efforts have replenished some of the enrollment loss, the CCC system has yet to fully recover their pre-2010 enrollment numbers. The district also saw declining enrollment due to the Great Recession in 2010 and the COVID-19 pandemic; however, unlike the rest of the system, the district has recovered and surpassed its past enrollment figures. The district's enrollment grew between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic year by 7%; which is more than the increase in enrollment funding provided in the State Budget for enrollment growth across the entire system.

Geographical service area of the district. AB 1636 (Solache) stipulates that for a local education agency (LEA) to participate in the data sharing agreement the LEA must also have a CCAP agreement or a College Promise partnership with the district and be located within geographical service area of the district. According to the district, there are four LEAs that meet this description: ABC Unified School District, Downey Unified School District, Norwalk La Miranda Unified School District, and Bellflower Unified School District.

Existing admission processes for the CCC vs. what is being proposed. To apply for admission to the CCC, an applicant or prospective community college student must complete a two-part application process prior to enrolling in coursework at a community college. The student must first create a student profile on CCCApply.com; which is a four-minute process that includes providing personally identifying information such as your name, email address, home address, phone number, and social security number or taxpayer identification number. This creates a student profile within CCCApply.com for the student to complete their college application. Once the profile is established, the student is then prompted to fill in 203 data points (not all of which are required for every student) to help ascertain the student's overall education status, if the student is eligible for financial aid, if the student requires basic needs services, and/or the type of program the student is applying to attend. After completing the application, a student record is generated by the Chancellor's Office and received by the colleges the student wishes to attend. The student is then able to enroll in coursework and begin the process of orienting themselves as a community college student.

The entire application can take up to an hour to complete and the generation of the student record takes up to 24 to 48 hours depending upon the number of applications being completed and digitally transmitted to the Chancellor's Office. The concept proposed by AB 1636 (Solache) would bypass the existing online self-application process for high school students within the geographical boundary of one community college district. Instead of completing the CCCApply application, data from a student's high school record would be shared with the district and then subsequently with the Chancellor's Office for the creation of a student record. s

Several presumptions are being made by AB 1636 (Solache) that the CCCApply application process presents a significant barrier preventing students from seamlessly enrolling in coursework at the college. The first presumption is that not all of the 203 data elements, which comprise the application process, are not necessary for a college to enroll and provide services to

² https://datamart.cccco.edu/Students/Student_Headcount_Term_Annual.aspx

³ <https://fiscalportal.cccco.edu/Reports/ViewAnnualDistrictReport?District=810&FiscalYear=16&Report=20>

students. Each of those 203 data elements are required by either state statute or are required by federal law. Each data element assists in determining if the student qualifies for financial aid, the type of tuition the student will be charged (resident or non-resident) and assists in placing the student in the appropriate math and English coursework based on their intended major. The CCC Apply application has been updated a myriad of times through an iterative process to help all students quickly and efficiently complete the application.

AB 1636 (Solache) also presumes a K-12 student record has the same information necessary for a student record at the community college to be generated. Conceptually, this would work if the high school record contained the information required by the Chancellor's Office to create the student record. However, according to the Chancellor's Office, the high school record is missing key data elements that only a student would be able to provide; therefore, this measure could be creating an unforeseen barrier by still requiring the student to provide the necessary data prior to the creation of a student record for the district. The measure has the Chancellor's Office creating a form with the minimal data requirements necessary to generate a student record and therefore, it is conceivable that the district could collect the missing data element pieces from the students and then transmit the data to the Chancellor's Office.

AB 1636 (Solache) does not address how the data will be used by the Chancellor's Office to create a student record. If the application through CCCApply is the only method by which a student record can be generated, then it is possible this measure will result in the manual entry of all the students' personal identifiable data by an analyst at the Chancellor's Office. This could result not only in human data entry errors, but in the exposure of sensitive information. The district has suggested a batching method currently used for noncredit students could be used as an effective alternative to the CCCApply application for the generation of a student record; however, at the time of this analysis Committee staff were unable to confirm this method is feasible for credit-bearing student records.

Arguments in support. Cerritos College is in support of the measure as “AB 1636 directly addresses this challenge by allowing Cerritos College to seamlessly generate a student record through existing K–12 partnership processes, removing an early administrative hurdle that can prevent students from fully engaging with the college enrollment process. This change may appear administrative, but for our students it is transformational. By simplifying the early steps of enrollment, AB 1636 allows students to quickly connect with academic counseling, financial aid guidance, orientation programs, and other resources that support their successful transition to college. For students who may be navigating the college process for the first time, reducing complexity can make the difference between stopping at the application stage and continuing toward enrollment. Importantly, the approach outlined in AB 1636 builds upon existing data-sharing agreements between K–12 districts and the college, ensuring student information is handled responsibly and within established frameworks. The measure preserves student choice, allowing students to decide whether they ultimately enroll, and does not replace the existing CCCApply application process. The impact within our community will be significant. Cerritos College works closely with local school districts through dual enrollment and Early College partnerships that already help thousands of students experience college-level coursework while still in high school. AB 1636 strengthens this pipeline by ensuring students are more seamlessly connected to the college as they prepare for their next educational step. By reducing unnecessary barriers at the front end of enrollment, the legislation will help more students move from high school to college, accelerate progress toward degrees and certificates, and strengthen the workforce pipeline for Southeast Los Angeles.”

A partnering LEA, ABC Unified School District, is in support of the measure as “under the pilot, graduating students will automatically receive a ‘ready-to-enroll’ student identification number, allowing them to enroll if they choose. The measure preserves student choice and does not replace the existing CCCApply processes but instead removes procedural friction that disproportionately affects first-general students, working students, and residents of underserved communities.”

Committee comments. It has been suggested that AB 1636 (Solache) is the next step in automatic admissions similar in nature to the California State University’s automatic admission process created by SB 640 (Cabaldon), Chapter 421, Statutes of 2025. Unlike AB 1636 (Solache) which has every student being admitted to the district without completing the existing application process, SB 640 (Cabaldon) still required a student to complete a CSU application prior to enrollment. AB 1636 (Solache) does circumvent the existing application process for a limited group of students and for a limited time. The only reason a student completes a CCCApply application is to generate a student record for the purpose of enrolling in community college coursework.

AB 1636 (Solache) maintains the implementation of the measure will be done in compliance with state and federal privacy laws; however, the measure does not contemplate how the data will be transmitted to the Chancellor’s Office in a manner that ensures the data is safely transposed into a student record.

To address the feasibility of the measure, the Committee has suggested, and the Author has accepted the following amendments:

1) *Amends subdivision (b) by removing the existing language and replacing the language to read as follows:*

~~(b) (1) On or before February 1, 2027, the chancellor’s office shall develop or approve a standardized form to identify the personally identifiable student information required to create a community college student record for course enrollment at the California Community Colleges, through the OpenCCC Student Account and CCCApply Application.~~

~~(2) The form shall be limited to the information identified by the chancellor’s office pursuant to paragraph (1).~~

~~(3) The form shall be used by the district and the partnering local educational agency to exchange information under a data sharing agreement described in subdivision (c).~~

(b) (1) (A) On or before September 1, 2027, the chancellor’s office, in collaboration with the district, shall develop a method for the district to compile and transmit personally identifiable student information to the chancellor’s office for the limited and express purpose of creating a community college student record for course enrollment at the California Community Colleges.

(B) The method described in subparagraph (A) shall require the district to compile and transmit the personally identifiable student information to the chancellor’s office in a manner that complies with all applicable state and federal privacy laws.

(C) *The method described in subparagraph (A) may use existing system capabilities used to create a community college student record.*

(D) *In developing the method described in subparagraph (A), the chancellor's office shall identify the personally identifiable student information that is required to be compiled and transmitted by the district to create a community college student record for course enrollment at the California Community Colleges.*

2) *Amends subdivision (c) to read as follows:*

(c) (1) ~~The Beginning on September 30, 2027, the governing board of the district may enter into a data sharing agreement with the governing board of a partnering local educational agency to exchange personally identifiable student information identified on the form described in subdivision (b) for the limited and express purpose of creating a community college student record to enable a participating student of the partnering local educational agency to seamlessly enroll in courses offered by the district.~~ *for course enrollment at the California Community Colleges.*

(2) *The personally identifiable student information exchanged under a data sharing agreement described in paragraph (1) shall be compiled and transmitted by the district to the chancellor's office under the method developed pursuant to subdivision (b).*

(3) ~~The personally identifiable student information exchanged under a data sharing agreement described in paragraph (1) shall only be used by the district and the chancellor's office for the limited and express purpose described in paragraph (1).~~ *for the limited and express purpose of creating a community college student record for course enrollment at the California Community Colleges.*

(4) ~~A data sharing agreement described in paragraph (1) shall include a requirement for the local educational agency to obtain the express written consent of either the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or the student's parent or guardian to exchange the personally identifiable student information identified on the form described in under the method developed pursuant to subdivision (b) with the district and the chancellor's office for the limited and express purpose described in paragraph (1).~~ *of creating a community college student record for course enrollment at the California Community Colleges.*

(5) ~~Personally identifiable student information shared by the local educational agency with the district and the chancellor's office under a data sharing agreement described in paragraph (1) shall be shared in a manner that complies with all applicable state and federal privacy laws.~~ *limited to the data identified by the chancellor's office pursuant to subdivision (b), and shall be shared by the local educational agency with the district in a manner that complies with all applicable state and federal privacy laws.*

3) *Amends subdivision (d) to read as follows:*

(d) ~~Upon receiving personally identifiable student information from a partnering local educational agency under a data sharing agreement described in subdivision (c), the district shall compile and transmit the information, through batch processing that leverages existing system capabilities used in limited contexts, including noncredit registration,~~ *information to the chancellor's office under the method developed pursuant to subdivision (b), to create a*

community college student record for the limited and express purpose ~~described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e).~~ *of creating a community college student record for course enrollment at the California Community Colleges.*

4) *Amends subdivision (e) to read as follows:*

(e) (1) On or before January 1, 2031, the *district, in collaboration with the* chancellor's ~~office~~ *office*, shall submit a report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of this section in accomplishing the purpose of providing seamless enrollment of participating students of a partnering local educational agency in courses offered by the district.

(2) A report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

ABC Unified School District
Bellflower Unified School District
Cerritos College
City of Norwalk
Downey Unified School District
Norwalk - LA Mirada Unified School District
Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)

Opposition

None on file.

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