
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No: AB 1729 **Hearing Date:** June 26, 2019
Author: Smith
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Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Pupils: attendance at community college

SUMMARY

This bill, until January 2027, authorizes additional high school students who meet certain conditions to enroll in summer community college courses by exempting those students from counting toward the 5 percent enrollment cap imposed by current law.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a school district, upon recommendation of the principal of a pupil's school of attendance, and with parental consent, to authorize a student who would benefit from advanced scholastic or vocational work to attend a community college as a special part-time or full-time student. Prohibits a principal from recommending, for community college summer session attendance, more than 5 percent of the total number of pupils in the same grade level and exempts from the 5 percent cap a pupil recommended by the pupil's principal for enrollment in a college-level summer session course if the course in which the pupil is enrolled meets specified criteria. Exempts, until January 1, 2020, pupils who meet the requirements and are a part of the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program from the 5 percent cap (Education Code (EC) § 48800, et seq.).
- 2) Prohibits a pupil enrolled in a public school from being required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity; and, specifies that all of the following requirements apply to the prohibition:
 - a) All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to pupils free of charge;
 - b) A fee waiver policy shall not make a pupil fee permissible;
 - c) School districts and schools shall not establish a two-tier educational system by requiring a minimal educational standard and also offering a second, higher educational standard that pupils may only obtain via payment of a fee or purchase of additional supplies that the school district does not provide; and,

- d) A school district or school shall not offer course credit or privileges related to educational activities in exchange for money or donations of goods or services from a pupil or a pupil's parents or guardians, and a school district or school shall not remove course credit or privileges related to educational activities, or otherwise discriminate against a pupil, because the pupil or the pupil's parents or guardians did not or will not provide money or donations of goods or services to the school district or school (EC § 49011).
- 3) Requires the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to report to the Department of Finance and the Legislature annually on the amount of full-time equivalent students (FTES) claimed by each CCC district for high school pupils enrolled in non-credit, non-degree applicable, and degree applicable courses; and provides that, for purposes of receiving state apportionments, CCC districts may only include high school students within the CCC district's report on FTES if the students are enrolled in courses that are open to the general public, as specified. Additionally, current law requires the governing board of a CCC district to assign a low enrollment priority to special part-time or full-time students in order to ensure that these students do not displace regularly admitted community college students (EC § 76001 and 76002).
- 4) Authorizes the governing board of a community college district to enter into a CCAP partnership with the governing board of a school district 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; and authorizes the governing board of a community college district participating in a CCAP partnership agreement to exempt special part-time students, as specified, from various fee requirements, as specified (EC § 76004).

ANALYSIS

This bill, until January 2027, authorizes additional high school students who meet certain conditions to enroll in summer community college courses. Specifically, it:

- 1) Exempts from the 5 percent cap a high school student who is recommended for enrollment by a principle in a summer community college course and is enrolled in either of the following:
 - a) A lower division, college-level general education course that transfer to a four-year college or university, as specified.
 - b) A credit bearing career technical education course, as specified.
- 2) Requires that the 5-percent cap apply to all physical education summer courses.

- 3) Requires, by March 1 of each year, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges report to the Department of Financial the number of students recommended who enrolled in community college summer session courses and who receive a passing grade, as specified.
- 4) Extends the existing sunset date for the exemption for high school students enrolled in the College and Career Access Pathways Program from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2027 and places the same sunset date for the proposed exemption.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Dual Enrollment programs, particularly those which take place on higher education institution campuses, have been shown to be excellent tools for encouraging college readiness. Students not only gain valuable career skills, or earn general education units that can transfer to a four-year university, but they also learn they can be successful in college. This gives them the confidence to continue with college after high school, puts them on a path toward achieving their academic goals.

Summer is the ideal time for them to enroll, as they are free of the responsibilities and workload that come with the regular academic year. However, current law limits the number of high school students who can enroll in summer courses at a community college. California Education Section 48800 permits only 5 percent of students per grade level, per school, to enroll.

AB 1729 expands college access for high school students during the summer by removing the 5 percent limitation for students who enroll in general education courses that transfer to a four-year university or career education courses.”

- 2) ***Why the 5 percent limit on concurrent enrollment in summer session?*** The 5 percent restriction language was added to the Education Code in 1963 (Chapter 934, Statutes of 1963). The rationale for the original establishment of the 5 percent limit is unclear. Since then conditions have changed considerably since the law was first enacted including year-round schools, greater year-round use of facilities, an increase in the 'A-G' course requirements to qualify for admission to UC and CSU, and an increased focus on advanced coursework for admission to more competitive colleges.
- 3) ***Benefits of Dual enrollment.*** Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to take college courses and earn college credit. According to a 2017 study by the James Irvine foundation, “While dual enrollment has historically focused on high-achieving students, these programs can have significant benefits for underperforming students as well, particularly if integrated with a career focus.” The report notes, “That high school students who are enrolled in courses on the college campus have the opportunity to be immersed in college culture, experience college-level expectations and be surrounded by college-going peer groups. Further, this not only prepares students for future college coursework but also helps them visualize themselves as college students. Ultimately, this could lead to greater academic self-efficacy and achievement. This bill temporarily allows additional high school students to enroll over the

summer month in a college-level transfer course or certain career technical education courses at a community college.”

- 4) ***Could lifting the 5 percent cap inundate CCC's with high school students?***
Current law authorizes local CCC districts to provide enrollment opportunities for high school students commonly referred to as dual enrollment. Although the bill's provisions essentially exempt from the 5 percent cap, authorization to enroll would still remain with each CCC district. Current law also prohibits the CCCCO from including any concurrent enrollment as part of its annual budget request for enrollment growth funding. Staff notes, under current law these special admits have low enrollment priority to ensure that high school students do not displace regularly admitted students. Further, the bill maintains the cap for physical education courses.

SUPPORT

Santa Clarita Community College District - College of the Canyons
The Wonderful Company

OPPOSITION

None received

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