
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No: AB 806 **Hearing Date:** June 12, 2019
Author: Bloom
Version: February 20, 2019
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Lynn Lorber

Subject: Postsecondary education: homeless and former homeless youth.

SUMMARY

This bill eliminates the January 1, 2020, sunset date on the granting of priority enrollment for homeless students in the California State University (CSU) and community colleges, and extends this priority to formerly homeless youth, thereby extending priority enrollment for homeless and formerly homeless students into perpetuity. This bill also extends to former homeless youth several benefits and protections that are currently afforded to current and former foster youth and currently homeless students.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

Priority enrollment

- 1) Requires the CSU and each community college district, and requests the University of California, to grant priority for registration for enrollment to a foster youth or former foster youth, or until January 1, 2020, homeless youth. (Education Code § 66025.9)
- 2) Defines “homeless youth” as a student under 25 years of age, who has been verified at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the receipt of the youth’s application for admission by a qualifying postsecondary educational institution as a homeless child or youth, by a specified person or entity. (EC § 66025.9)

Homeless and Foster Student Liaison

- 3) Requires a qualifying postsecondary educational institution to designate a staff member who is employed within the financial aid office to serve as the Homeless and Foster Student Liaison. Existing law requires the liaison to be responsible for understanding the provisions of the federal Higher Education Act pertaining to financial aid eligibility of current and former foster youth and homeless youth, and for identifying services available and appropriate for enrolled students who fall under one or more of these categories. (EC § 67003.5)

Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach Program

- 4) Establishes the Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach Program, to be administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) in consultation with the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to provide financial aid training to high school and community college counselors and advisers who work with students planning to attend or attending a community college. Existing law requires the training to address the specific needs of specified categories of students. (EC § 69514.5)

Student Opportunity and Access Program

- 5) Provides that the Student Opportunity and Access Program is to be administered by CSAC, and authorizes CSAC to apportion funds for the support of projects designed to increase the accessibility of postsecondary educational opportunities for specified categories of elementary and secondary school students. (EC § 69561)

Community college student fee waiver

- 6) Requires the governing board of each community college district to charge each student a fee of \$46 per unit per semester, and requires the fee to be waived for any student who meets specified requirements, including status of homeless youth at the time of enrollment. (EC § 76300)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

Priority enrollment

- 1) Extends the requirement for the California State University and community colleges, and request for the University of California, to grant priority enrollment to apply to formerly homeless youth.
- 2) Eliminates the January 1 2020, sunset date on the granting of priority enrollment for homeless students, thereby extending priority enrollment for homeless and formerly homeless students into perpetuity.
- 3) Modifies the definition of “homeless youth” to include former homeless youth.

Homeless and Foster Student Liaison

- 4) Extends the role of a postsecondary educational institutions’ Homeless and Foster Student Liaison to include former homeless youth.

Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach Program

- 5) Adds former homeless youth to the categories of students for which financial aid training is to address their needs.

Student Opportunity and Access Program

- 6) Adds former homeless youth to the categories of elementary and secondary students for which the California Student Aid Commission may apportion funds for the support of projects designed to increase the accessibility of postsecondary educational opportunities for students.

Community college student fee waiver

- 7) Extends existing fee waiver requirements to former homeless youth.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “The current statute allowing homeless youth to access priority enrollment at the California State University, community colleges and the University of California sunsets on January 1, 2020, ending much needed benefits and programs for homeless students. Additionally, due to an oversight in AB 801 (Bloom, Chapter 432, 2016), the definition did not capture current and former homeless youth as it does in AB 1228 (Gipson, Chapter 571, 2015). This bill will rectify this oversight and align the two definitions”
- 2) ***Priority enrollment.*** With regard to the California State University (CSU), each campus has established general registration priorities. For example, continuing students generally are allowed to enroll in courses before new students enroll. Some campuses grant secondary priority to students who transferred with an associate or transfer degree, or who participate in the California Promise Program.

Existing law requires the CSU and/or California Community Colleges (CCCs), and requests the University of California to grant priority enrollment to the following students:

- a) Current and former foster youth (CSU and CCCs).
- b) Until January 1, 2020, homeless youth (CSU and CCCs).
- c) Any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, and who is a resident of California, who has received an honorable discharge, a general discharge, or an other than honorable discharge, and to any member or former member of the State Military Reserve, for any academic term attended at one of these institutions for four academic years after he or she has left state or federal active duty, which he or she shall use within 15 years of leaving state or federal active duty. (CSU and CCCs).
- d) Any student who is a CalWORKs or Tribal TANF recipient (CCCs).
- e) Students in the Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services program, and disabled students who are determined to be eligible for disabled student programs and services (CCCs).

- 3) ***Fiscal impact.*** According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill would impose:
- a) Minor Proposition 98 General Fund costs to California Community Colleges (CCC) campuses. Formerly homeless students already qualify for a CCC fee waiver if they are considered low-income. The state would need to reimburse these costs to CCC, if the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate.
 - b) Minor and absorbable General Fund cost pressures to California State University campuses.
 - c) Minor and absorbable General Fund cost pressures to University of California campuses.

SUPPORT

California Coalition for Youth (co-sponsor)
SchoolHouse Connection (co-sponsor)
Aspiranet
California Catholic Conference
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
City of Santa Monica
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter

OPPOSITION

None received

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