
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: SB 1009 **Hearing Date:** March 21, 2018
Author: Wilk
Version: March 12, 2018
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Community colleges: tutoring

SUMMARY

This bill expands, in statute the categories of noncredit courses for which community colleges collect apportionment to include tutoring for students in certain courses.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes a system through which state funds are apportioned to community college districts based on specified formulas. (Education Code (EC) § 84750.5)
- 2) Identifies the noncredit community college courses and classes that are eligible for state apportionment funding including classes or courses in parenting, remedial education, English as a second language, citizenship for immigrants, workforce preparation, education programs for persons with substantial disabilities, older adults, home economics, short-term vocational programs and health and safety education. (EC § 84757)
- 3) Prohibits state apportionment for a noncredit course or class that is not identified in Section 84757 of the education code. (EC § 84757)
- 4) Under state regulations, allows apportionment for student attendance in tutoring in a basic skills noncredit course offered pursuant to EC § 84757(a)(2) and provides conditions for which those funds may be claimed. (Title 5 California Code of Regulations § 58168 and 58170)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Expands, in statute, the categories of noncredit community college courses and classes that are eligible for state apportionment funding to include tutoring for courses and classes in all subject areas that are either basic skills, degree applicable or transfer-level.
- 2) Specifies, referral for tutoring support that is eligible for state apportionment that can be by a faculty member or self-initiated.

- 3) Makes various findings and declarations relative to tutoring improving student success and existing statutory restrictions for funding tutoring services.
- 4) Declares the Legislature's intent that legislation be enacted to increase community college students by expanding the state apportionment funding of tutoring.
- 5) Makes changes to conform to California Code of Regulations relative to noncredit courses.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, "given the impact that tutoring has on student completion, it should be expanded beyond basic skills courses, and colleges should be allowed to collect apportionment funding for supervised tutoring in all subject areas that are either basic skills or degree applicable." The author also asserts "that students should be allowed to pursue tutoring without waiting for a referral from a faculty member, as is currently required. Requiring them to wait until they are referred by a faculty member or even worse until they have demonstrated failing performance in exams makes no sense."

This bill seeks to expand tutoring support for students taking certain courses by making noncredit tutoring assistance offered for those courses eligible for state apportionment funding and by authorizing participation in tutoring assistance to be self-initiated.

- 2) **Existing state apportionment funding provided for student attendance in tutoring.** As noted in the background of this analysis, under state regulations, student attendance in tutoring is eligible for apportionment only in a noncredit course offered in statute (EC § 84757(a)(2)). Those courses consist of classes relating to career development and college preparation. Instruction includes some basic skills courses, English as a Second Language courses, and Career Technical Education courses. This bill codifies and adds tutoring support for college level and all basic skills classes to this list of eligible noncredit courses.

In addition, state regulations provide conditions for which funds may be claimed for tutoring assistance. These conditions include that tutoring must be conducted through a designated learning center under the supervision of a qualified faculty member, among other things. This type of tutoring involves a student tutor who has been successful in a particular discipline and has received specific training in tutoring methods.

Staff recommends the following clarifying amendment:

Supervised tutoring for courses and classes **as described in §58170 of California Code of Regulations**, in all subject areas that are either basic skills, degree applicable, or transfer level, irrespective of whether a student being tutored has been referred to tutoring by a faculty member or has self-initiated the tutoring. ***The Board of Governors shall amend subdivision (e) of §58170 of California Code of Regulation to include student-initiated tutoring.***

- 3) **Overlap state funding for tutoring assistance?** State funds designated for categorical programs allow for use of those funds for tutoring assistance. These include Student Success and Support program and the Basic Skills Initiative are among these programs. Staff notes that existing regulations prohibit collection of state apportionment dollars for tutoring services that are being paid from state categorical funds. Should an evaluation of categorical dollars used for tutoring assistance be explored prior to making state apportionment funds available for other noncredit courses or classes?
- 4) **If referred by a faculty member is tutoring required?** It is not the intent of the author to allow colleges to require tutoring of the students, nor does it appear that it is current practice. However, it's not clear whether it is prohibited. The author may wish to explore clarifying this point as the bill moves forward.
- 5) **Related legislation.**

AB 1935 (Irwin, 2018) would provide that supervised tutoring for degree-applicable and transfer-level courses is eligible for state apportionment funding. Unlike this bill, AB 1935 authorizes the Board of Governors to create regulations for purposes of implementing the bill and is silent on the inclusion of tutoring support for basic skills courses. AB 1935 is pending hearing in Assembly Higher Education Committee.

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OPPOSITION

None received

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