

EDGE Policy Update

June 2023

On Friday, June 2nd, the Legislature met the House of Origin deadline – the last day for the Senate and Assembly to pass bills introduced in their respective houses. Thus far, we've seen various measures pass through the Legislature in the areas of workforce development and higher education access intended to support working families, underserved opportunity youth, and returning students.

In addition to the House of Origin deadline, budget committees in both houses convened hearings to approve several budget items, including the [Legislature's Budget Plan](#). EDGE advocated for higher education and workforce development priorities, including investments to support Community Colleges and students, Cradle to Career Data System, social safety net, and protect investments for apprenticeship program – view our budget letter [here](#). As for next steps, the Governor has until June 30th to sign the budget, and we should expect to see additional trailer bills in the coming weeks that clarify and make adjustments to the approved state budget plan.

As the 2023 legislative year continues to prove extremely busy with numerous policy and budget proposals seeking to prioritize economic recovery strategies, several measures EDGE is tracking continue to make their way through the legislative process. EDGE is committed to advancing policies that support our business community, workers in low-wage occupations, provide stable resources to our community colleges, invest in support services for opportunity youth and returning students, and expand training opportunities for California's most underserved communities - all while prioritizing racial and economic equity.

Below are various bills that EDGE has taken positions on thus far. This list will be updated as we continue to analyze pending legislation. For more information about our positions and efforts, please contact Anna Alvarado, Policy Director, at aalvarado@caedge.org.

EDGE Bill Positions

as of June 21, 2023

[ACR 16 \(Mike Fong\) Opportunity Youth in CA](#). *This resolution encourages the State of California to create pathways to success for OY and the need to develop a statewide comprehensive plan that will reduce persistent economic inequities by prioritizing investments in education and workforce training programs; expand innovative “earn and learn” opportunities such as apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, and work-based learning opportunities; advance dual enrollment implementation; ensure inclusivity of OY in the Cradle-to-Career Data System; remove barriers to access student financial aid programs; and protect social safety net investments that support basic needs – enabling OY to complete their education and training goals. EDGE is a Co-Sponsor, along w/ COYN & New Ways to Work.*

Position: Co-Sponsor

Status: Pending on the Senate Floor

[AB 368 \(Holden\) College & Career Access Pathways Partnerships.](#) This bill would update the definition of "underrepresented in higher education" that is used for the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program, which facilitates dual enrollment programs. The bill intends to ensure underrepresented students are receiving priority registration for dual enrollment programs, including undocumented students, first-time college students, foster youth, homeless students, and student parents. The bill also requires data collection on student demographics and course completion.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Senate Appropriations Committee

[AB 372 \(Nguyen\) CalWORKS.](#) This bill would exclude pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships income in order to determine CalWORKs eligibility for individuals participating in these programs. This exclusion will expand access to cash assistance through CalWORKs for more underserved Californians who are facing socio-economic barriers and further incentivize individuals to participate in apprenticeships.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Senate Appropriations Committee

[AB 685 \(Ramos\) CA Youth Job Corps.](#) This bill would establish in statute the CaliforniansForAll Youth Job Corps Program and expand the program statewide, with an emphasis on providing supportive services for homeless youth and current or former foster youth to enable their participation in the workforce development program.

Position: Support

Status: 2-year bill. Pending budget action.

[AB 789 \(Berman\) Expanding Access to Financial Aid.](#) This bill would enable students who struggle academically to continue their education by removing barriers to maintaining their financial aid. Research shows that nearly one in four first-year, low-income students attending a higher ed institution do not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards required to receive state and federal financial aid, and many do not continue their education or training. AB 789 will create a common set of SAP standards, remove additional requirements that are more restrictive than those federally mandated, and ensure students have clear pathways to regain financial aid.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Senate Education Committee

[SB 227 \(Durazo\) Unemployment Insurance for Undocumented Workers.](#) This bill seeks to provide unemployment insurance benefits to excluded immigrant workers in California who could not access these benefits due to immigration status. The proposal would provide undocumented immigrants experiencing unemployment with \$300 per week for up to 20 weeks.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Insurance Committee

[SB 467 \(Portantino\) Apprenticeships.](#) This bill would prohibit an immigrant student from being denied admission to a community college apprenticeship or internship training program if the student uses an individual tax identification number (ITIN) for purposes of the background check required by the class or program.

Position: Support

Status: Pending on the Assembly Floor