

EDGE Policy Update

September 2023

On September 1st, the Legislature held the Appropriations Suspense Hearing where the Assembly and Senate took action on hundreds of bills that had significant fiscal cost. Key bills of interest that passed off the suspense file included student financial aid access, dual enrollment eligibility, and securing a social safety net for working families. Once the fate of all fiscal bills was determined at the suspense hearing, the Legislature voted one last time on all final bills before sending them to the Governor on September 14th, marking the end of the legislative session.

EDGE is excited to see the passage of our priority bills that are now pending on the Governor's desk! The Governor has until October 14th to sign or veto all bills passed by the Legislature, and EDGE is working hard to ensure measures that are intended to support working families, adult learners, and opportunity youth, are chaptered into law.

Please join us in our advocacy efforts to urge Governor Newsom to sign critical education and workforce bills into law! Take action [here](#).

For more information about our positions and efforts, please contact Anna Alvarado, Policy Director, at aalvarado@caedge.org.

EDGE Bill Positions

as of September 25, 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 prioritize 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: Chaptered.

[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 on the Governor's desk.

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 on the Governor's desk.

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. \$78 million ongoing investment was included in the final budget.

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 on the Governor's desk.

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: 2-year bill.

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: Chaptered.