

EDGE Policy Update

February 22, 2024

The California Legislature reached its bill introduction deadline on February 16, with a total of 1,556 Assembly Bills and 662 Senate Bills introduced. As we move into the second year of the two-year legislative session, it's already shaping up to be another busy session at the Capitol! A multitude of legislation has been put forward, many seeking to provide support to underserved working families, displaced workers, small businesses, opportunity youth, and returning students.

In tandem with the legislative deadline, both the Senate and Assembly budget committees have convened multiple informational hearings to further examine the Governor's proposed budget. These hearings have delved into various topics such as access to student financial aid, student enrollment figures, technological needs for students, and efforts to diversify the healthcare workforce. Although the budget largely maintains historic investments made in previous years, the Governor is proposing cuts and delays to critical education and workforce programs, which are up for discussion. In the upcoming weeks, the Legislature is anticipated to take decisive steps on several crucial budgetary items, leading up to the Governor's May Revision. Dive into our full state budget summary [here](#).

As for next steps, join our budget advocacy efforts to urge Governor Newsom and the Legislature to protect investments in education and workforce development. Take action [here](#)!

Below is a list of bills EDGE is closely tracking. An official position is noted if it has been approved by our coalition. This is a dynamic list that will be updated as we continue to analyze legislation and as bills move forward, or not, this session. For more information about our positions on specific legislation, please contact Anna Alvarado, Policy Director, at aalvarado@caedge.org.

EDGE Bill Positions

[AB 359 \(Holden\)](#) College & Career Access Pathways Partnerships (Dual enrollment). This bill seeks to modify existing College and Career Pathways (CCAP) law to address barriers hindering Local Education Agencies and Community Colleges from establishing CCAP partnerships. The bill enables multiple partnerships, simplifies student application processes, and ensures prioritization of course pathways to facilitate students in earning high school and college credits, including those in adult education.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in the Senate.

[AB 2458 \(Berman\)](#) Public postsecondary education: student parents. This bill aims to help student parents by requiring colleges to provide detailed information about support services and resources on their websites. It also mandates colleges to develop policies for estimating and adjusting costs for student parents, identify student parents in their data systems, and update cost calculators to give more accurate estimates for student parents.

Position: Watch

Status: Pending in the Assembly.

AB 3240 (Calderon) California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021: Cal Grants. The California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021 prevents colleges from reducing institutional aid for students who receive private scholarships, as long as their total aid doesn't exceed their cost of attendance. It also stops colleges from factoring in private scholarships when determining eligibility for institutional aid. This bill would, starting July 1, 2025, increase these protections to apply to students eligible for Cal Grant awards.

Position: Watch

Status: Pending in the Assembly.

SB 227 (Durazo) Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program. The bill would create the Excluded Workers Program managed by the Employment Development Department (EDD). It would offer unemployment insurance benefits of \$300 per week to undocumented workers who are unemployed and ineligible to receive state or federal benefits. EDD must make specific findings for eligibility and establish regulations, including an application process, to administer the program.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2769 (Ortega) Apprenticeships: income tax returns. The intent of this bill is to promote California's apprenticeship programs by integrating an option on state income tax returns. This option would allow filers to express interest in receiving more information about the state's apprenticeship opportunities, thus increasing awareness and participation in these programs.

Position: Watch

Status: Pending in the Assembly.

AB 2873 (E. Garcia) Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative. The Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative established a grant program to aid specific workforce training programs. Funding for this initiative is contingent upon legislative appropriation. This bill would remove several provisions about the initiative's purpose and aims to secure ongoing funding to sustain its efforts in combating racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in the job market.

Position: Watch

Status: Pending in the Assembly.

SB 1321 (Wahab) Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF). Currently, the Inter Agency Leadership Team that oversees the CERF program distributes grant funds and develops policies for workforce development. CERF aims to support high road transition collaboratives in designing economic recovery strategies. This bill proposes expanding the program's focus to prioritize creating quality jobs in sustainable industries with high-growth potential and connecting disadvantaged community members with these opportunities.

Position: Watch

Status: Pending in the Senate.

SB 1244 (Newman) College & Career Access Pathways Partnerships (Dual enrollment). This bill allows a community college district to form a CCAP partnership and offer dual enrollment courses with a school district, county office of education, or charter school in another community college district's service area if the latter has declined the partnership request or has not responded within 60 days.

Position: Watch

Status: Pending in the Senate.