

EDGE Policy Update

April 2024

On April 4th, an agreement was reached between the Governor and the Legislature to tackle the state's deficit. The Early Action budget blueprint aims to slash the deficit by around \$17.3 billion. View the key points of the agreement [here](#).

Despite the green light on the budget deal, numerous proposals from the January budget, focusing on cutting and postponing vital education and workforce initiatives, are still on the table for debate. Currently, the Governor and Legislature are deliberating on various investments in education and workforce development, including the Cradle-to-Career Data System, High Road Training Partnerships, CA Youth Apprenticeship, Women in Construction, Cal Grant Reform, and student housing. In the forthcoming weeks, the Legislature will continue to hold budget hearings regarding these pending proposals and will make decisions on crucial budget matters leading up to the Governor's May Revision. You can access our budget letter [here](#).

In addition to the ongoing budget discussions, the Legislature is actively conducting policy committee hearings to advance a wide array of bills. Many of these bills seek to eliminate socioeconomic barriers for underserved working families, displaced workers, small businesses, opportunity youth, and returning students. The deadline for policy committees to submit all fiscal bills to the Appropriations committee is April 26th.

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: Support

Status: Pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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: Support

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

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: Support

Status: Pending in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

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: Support

Status: Pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.