

EDGE Policy Update

June 2024

On June 22nd, state leaders reached a consensus on the budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. This budget, crafted through discussions between the Governor and legislative leaders, successfully addresses the anticipated \$28 billion shortfall. Despite the challenging fiscal environment, we are pleased to report that the agreement safeguards several workforce training programs, including the High Road Training Partnerships and youth apprenticeship programs. You can view our budget highlights [here](#) and stay tuned for a detailed overview once the budget is officially enacted.

In addition to budget matters, the Legislature continues to conduct policy committee hearings where numerous education and workforce development bills are progressing. The Legislature has until July 3rd to approve bills in these committees before preparing for the August 15 Appropriations Suspense File, which will determine the fate of many proposals.

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 Appropriations Committee – Suspense File.

[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 Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File.

[AB 2723 \(Irwin\)](#) The Cradle to Career Data System Act. This bill ensures public interaction with data while maintaining security by directing Public Information Practices Act (IPA) requests to data providers, who can verify identities and amend records. It also corrects an error in classifying all system data as Personally Identifiable Information (PII), allowing C2C to provide de-identified public data dashboards while protecting personal information according to state law.

Position: **Support**

Status: Pending in the Senate Judiciary 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: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, May 2024.

[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 Senate 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 Senate 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 – Suspense File.