

EDGE Policy Update

August 2024

After a month-long summer recess, the Legislature reconvened on August 5th to address pending legislation with fiscal implications for the state. On August 15th, the Senate and Assembly conducted their Appropriations Suspense Hearing, deciding the outcome of bills with substantial costs, including several of EDGE's priority measures related to dual enrollment, skills training, and student financial aid. We are pleased to announce that all of EDGE's priority bills that were on the suspense file successfully passed out of the committee and are now moving forward to their final floor votes. Details on the status of the bills are provided below.

With the suspense hearing concluded, the Legislature now has until August 30th to pass any remaining measures from their respective houses and send them to Governor Newsom. The Governor will have until September 30th to sign or veto the legislation. As we enter the final days of the legislative session, the Governor, Legislature, and advocates are already preparing for next year's budget season. They are considering measures that might not advance this year due to high fiscal costs and evaluating which state-funded programs should be highlighted in the January 2025 budget proposal. Stay tuned for more updates as we await final decisions from the Legislature and Governor on key remaining bills and explore opportunities for next year's advocacy efforts!

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

As of August 26, 2024

[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 on the Senate Floor

[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 on the Senate Floor

[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 on the Assembly Floor (final vote)

[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 on the Senate Floor

[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 on the Senate Floor

[SB 227 \(Durazo\)](#) Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program. This bill would require the Employment Development Department (EDD) to develop a detailed plan to establish a permanent Excluded Workers Program to provide cash assistance that resembles unemployment insurance benefits to unemployed workers who are ineligible for these benefits due to their immigration status.

Position: Support

Status: Pending on the Assembly Floor