

EDGE Policy Update

End of Session Wrap-Up 2024

On September 30th, Governor Newsom made his final decisions on nearly 950 bills passed by the Legislature. Hundreds of these bills were signed into law, bringing significant changes for working families, returning students, opportunity youth, and the state's workforce. Building on last year's initiatives, the Governor approved key measures in which EDGE has been a strong advocate. These measures focus on dual enrollment, increasing access to student financial aid, and implementing strategies to assist opportunity youth and returning students who have been disconnected from California's education and workforce systems.

During the 2024 legislative session, EDGE engaged on a range of bill proposals related to education and workforce development. Our [policy priorities](#) for the year were aimed at enhancing and advancing measures to establish a robust social safety net for underserved students, support community colleges and their programs, and collaborate with industry partners to stabilize and rebuild their workforce. Throughout this process, we ensured that funding initiatives were developed with a focus on equity.

In addition to our legislative work, EDGE advocated for several key budget items, including funding for skills training, social safety net services, and the protection of workforce development programs that faced severe cuts. The final state budget, agreed upon by the Governor and Legislature, allocates \$21.5 billion from the General Fund within a \$297.9 billion total, addressing a \$46.8 billion deficit through cuts, delays, and reapportionments. This plan aims to support Californians facing socioeconomic barriers. For further details, please check out our complete budget overview [here](#).

As we wrap up the two-year legislative session, our work is just beginning. Looking ahead to the next legislative cycle, EDGE is dedicated to collaborating with our partners, the Legislature, and the Administration to foster economic mobility for all Californians while helping industries address their workforce needs. Our strategic priorities will focus on communities that have been excluded from the state's prosperity. We aim to provide these groups with the resources needed to complete education and training programs with the goal of securing family-sustaining jobs.

All bills that were signed by the Governor will become law and take effect on January 1, 2025, unless it contained an urgency clause. The Legislature is now in recess and will reconvene for the 2025-26 legislative session on December 2, 2024.

The following is a summary of EDGE's 2024 priority bills and budget proposals with their final outcomes.

2024 EDGE Priority Bills

AB 359 (Holden) CCAP Dual Enrollment Partnerships. This bill makes changes to the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships to align with best practices from other dual enrollment programs and to streamline access for students across the state, like simplifying the application process, and expand partnerships with more colleges. Dual enrollment gives students the opportunity to take community college courses, allowing them to earn college credits while still completing their high school education. [Factsheet](#)

Position: Support

Status: Vetoed. View Governor's message [here](#).

AB 2458 (Berman) Student Parents. This bill seeks to empower student parents by easing financial burdens, facilitating enrollment, and enhancing graduation rates in their pursuit of higher education. This legislation strives to guarantee that student parents access the financial assistance they need, factoring in childcare costs. Furthermore, it mandates college campuses (UC, CSU, CCC) to gather and analyze data to propel student-parent achievement. [Factsheet](#)

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

AB 2723 (Irwin) Cradle to Career Data System. This bill updates C2C rules by clarifying that C2C maintains data, ensuring individuals exercise intellectual property rights at the data source, and correcting an error to align C2C's definition of personal data with state law, protecting names, IDs, phone numbers, addresses, and job history. The C2C Data System is a statewide platform that connects education, workforce, financial aid, and social service data to help policymakers, educators, and the public address disparities and improve outcomes. [Factsheet](#)

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

AB 2769 (Ortega) Apprenticeships: income tax returns. This bill would mandate the Franchise Tax Board to include a checkbox on individual income tax returns for taxable years starting January 1, 2025. Taxpayers can choose to give consent for sharing their information with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards, allowing them to receive information about apprenticeship programs in California. [Factsheet](#)

Position: Support

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 2873 (Garcia) Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative. This bill would make changes to the Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative (BB2E) by setting aside 15% of any future allocated funds to prospective grantees, like community-based organizations, who were unable to secure a workforce board partner entity before the deadline but were able to meet all other requirements. Any funds not used in this allocation will roll over to the next application cycle. BB2E enhances workforce and

education programs by offering services to support individuals facing employment challenges. [Factsheet](#)

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

[AB 3240 \(Calderon\)](#) CA Ban on Scholarship Displacement: Cal Grants. The California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021 prevents colleges from reducing a student's institutional aid due to private scholarships unless the total aid surpasses the cost of attendance. It also prohibits colleges from factoring in private scholarships when determining a student's eligibility for institutional aid. This bill would, starting July 1, 2025, extend these protections to students eligible for Cal Grants. [Factsheet](#)

Position: Support

Status: Chaptered

[SB 227 \(Durazo\)](#) 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. [Factsheet](#)

Position: Support

Status: Vetoed. View Governor's message [here](#).

2024 EDGE Budget Priorities

In addition to legislation, EDGE also advocated in support of critical budget investments related to education, workforce development, and student social safety net services. Below is a list of EDGE's budget priorities that were accomplished in the 2024-25 budget cycle.

Investments In Workforce Development & the Economy

High Road Training Partnerships. The budget preserved funding for High Road Training Partnerships by rejecting \$45 million in cuts and reallocating \$15 million to expand these programs at the Workforce Development Board. H RTP supports worker-focused, industry-led training that emphasizes equity, job quality, and sustainability.

CA Youth Leadership Corps. The budget preserved \$20 million in funding for the CA Youth Leadership Corps, supporting earn-and-learn career pathways at 20 community colleges over four years to drive community change.

CA Youth Apprenticeship Program. The budget preserved \$25 million in funding for the CA Youth Apprenticeship Program to develop innovative ways to boost opportunity youth participation in pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships, demonstrating positive employment and earnings outcomes.

Women in Construction. The budget preserved \$15 million in ongoing funding for the Women in Construction Unit at the Department of Industrial Relations, including 5 permanent positions to support women and nonbinary individuals in the skilled trades sector.

Investments In Education & Students

Cradle to Career Data System. The budget preserved key funding for the Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C), including \$2 million to boost the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI), which provides college and career planning tools to all 6th-12th graders. C2C also expands eTranscript California for smoother transfer of community college transcripts to four-year schools. An additional \$12 million in one-time funds will extend eTranscript to all 116 community colleges, improving student record transfers and reducing third-party reliance. Grants will cover local setup and integration costs.

Credit for Prior Learning. The budget allocated \$6 million in one-time funding for the Mapping Articulated Pathways for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) project. This initiative helps working adults access high-demand careers by supporting colleges in establishing CPL practices, using technology to automate credit transfers, and providing grants for faculty development and technical assistance.

Social Safety Net Investments for Underserved Communities

Food for All. Although the budget maintains the commitment to expand the CA Food Assistance Program (CFAP), it implements a two-year delay to the program – automation to begin in 2026-27 with benefits beginning in 2027-28. CFAP would provide food assistance to undocumented immigrants 55 and older. In addition to the delay, the budget continues to exclude undocumented immigrants 54 and under to access the program.

Child Care. The budget reaffirms the expansion of over 200,000 subsidized childcare slots by 2028, as approved in 2021. It also fully funds 11,000 awarded expansion slots from current appropriations.

Health for All. The budget sustains funding for Health4All, expanding Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented immigrants aged 26-49. Initially approved in 2022, this included \$835.6 million in 2023-24 and \$2.6 billion annually which began January 2024.

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