

EDGE Policy Update

April 2022

On April 18th, the Legislature returned from their week-long spring recess and faced a fast-approaching deadline for policy committees to send all fiscal bills to the appropriations committees by April 29th. Thus far, we've seen groundbreaking legislation pass several key committees in the areas of student financial aid reform, dual enrollment opportunities, and strengthening workforce development strategies - all intended to support working families, small businesses, underserved students, opportunity youth, adult learners, and to ultimately boost California's workforce.

In addition to policy committees being held, dozens of budget committee hearings have also been held in both the Senate and Assembly - providing informational overviews of the Governor's proposed budget. EDGE submitted a [budget letter](#) to the Administration and Legislature outlining our priorities based on the budget proposal. View our summary analysis of the Governor's budget proposal [here](#). As for next steps, the Legislature is expected to take action on several key budget items leading up to the Governor's May Revision and June 15 budget deadline.

As the 2022 legislative year continues to prove extremely busy with numerous policy and budget proposals seeking to respond to prioritize economic recovery strategies, several measures EDGE is tracking continue to make their way through the legislative process. EDGE is committed to advancing policies that support our business community, dislocated workers in low-wage occupations, provide stable resources to our community colleges, invest in support services for opportunity youth and adult learners, and expand training opportunities for California's most underserved communities - all while prioritizing racial and economic equity.

Below are various bills that EDGE has taken positions on thus far. This list will be updated as we continue to analyze all pending legislation. For more information about our positions and efforts, please contact Anna Alvarado, Policy Director, at aalvarado@caedge.org.

EDGE Bill Positions

as of April 27, 2022

[AB 102 \(Holden\)](#) College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships - Dual Enrollment. This bill would remove the sunset date on the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) which will ensure dual enrollment opportunities remain available to all students. Dual enrollment allows for students to access college-level courses while in high school.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Senate Rules Committee.

[AB 288 \(Calderon\)](#) CA Ban on Scholarships Displacement Act of 2021. This bill would prohibit the displacement of financial aid awards due to receipt of private scholarships of students who are eligible for the: 1) Federal Pell Grant and/or 2) California Dream Act (CADAA) financial aid awards at both public and private institutions of higher education in the state of California.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Senate Rules Committee

[AB 1187 \(Irwin\)](#) Supervised Tutoring at Community Colleges. This bill would increase access to supervised tutoring at the California Community Colleges by authorizing colleges to claim apportionment for students receiving assistance in credential/degree-applicable courses, including short-term training programs and education for older adults. This bill is in alignment with AB 705 implementation efforts that seek to stop the placement of students in remedial education courses.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Senate Rules Committee

[AB 1705 \(Irwin\)](#) Strengthening Equitable Placement and Completion at Community Colleges. This bill seeks to clarify and ensure that the implementation of AB 705 (Irwin, 2017) is delivered across the community college system - requiring colleges to enroll students in transfer-level English and math and halt the placement of students in remedial education, which colleges are continuing to do despite AB 705 law.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1746 \(Medina\)](#) Cal Grant Reform Act. This bill would build on last year's expansion of the Cal Grant entitlement to community college students by removing additional barriers to grant eligibility such as high school GPA verification; simplifying the program to make it easier to understand for students and families and indexing the award to inflation.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1816 \(Bryan\)](#) Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program. This bill seeks to create a competitive Reentry Housing & Workforce Development Grant Program to fund evidence-based housing, support services, and workforce development programs for people who were formerly incarcerated in state prisons and who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1864 \(Gipson\)](#) Tax Credits for Small Business Employers. This bill seeks to create a local hire tax credit for small businesses, with 49 or fewer employees, that hire a full-time employee within a 5-mile radius of their place of business. This tax credit would allow employers to benefit per eligible employee and would be available for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2028.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee.

[AB 1965 \(Wicks\)](#) CA Antihunger Response and Employment Training Act of 2022 (CARET). This bill seeks to establish the CARET program to provide state-funded benefits to individuals deemed ineligible for CalFresh as a result of the "able-bodied adult without dependents" (ABAWD) time limit. ABAWD is federally defined as individuals between ages 18 and 49 years old who have no dependents and do not have a disability and therefore may only receive CalFresh benefits for a certain amount of time. The federal "time limit" prohibits an ABAWD recipient from receiving benefits for more than three months in a three-year time period if they do not meet specific work requirements. This bill addresses food insecurity for individuals who would lose CalFresh eligibility due to the ABAWD rules and helps ensure they are supported as they continue to experience socio-economic and employment barriers.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[AB 2572 \(Rubio\) Adult Learner Grant Program](#) – This bill seeks to establish an adult learner grant program at the CA Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and only allows students participating in online education to access these funds. It would add unnecessary complexity to our state financial aid programs, creating a brand-new, boutique program to solely serve Californians aged 25 and over, who are enrolled exclusively in online education at either an in-state public higher education institution or a private nonprofit – even if it does not have a physical presence in California.

Position: Oppose

Status: Held in Assembly Higher Education Committee.

[AB 2617 \(Holden\) Dual Enrollment Opportunities and Outreach.](#) This bill seeks to enable and incentivize more local education agencies to establish dual enrollment opportunities for students, coupled with student support services and outreach campaigns, and ensure dual enrollment outcomes are studied for program improvements. EDGE is also supporting the budget item tied to this bill - \$500 million Governor's proposal to expand dual enrollment opportunities.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[AB 2670 \(McCarty\) CA Regional Initiative for Social Enterprises Program \(RISE\).](#) This bill seeks to create the RISE Program, which would support employment social enterprises to provide targeted, specialized employment and workforce training, and connect them with local public partners, training providers, and private sector employers to accelerate economic mobility for individuals that experience employment barriers.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[AB 2847 \(E. Garcia\) Excluded Workers Pilot Program.](#) This bill seeks to provide unemployment insurance benefits to excluded immigrant workers in California who could not access these benefits due to immigration status. The proposal would provide undocumented immigrants experiencing unemployment with \$300 per week for up to 20 weeks.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[SB 885 \(Laird\) NextUp Foster Youth Program.](#) This bill seeks to expand the NextUp foster youth program by removing the 20 community college district limit, allowing the CC Chancellor's Office to instead enter into agreements with community college districts to provide and allocate to selected campuses, funds for NextUp programs. The bill also authorizes students enrolled in fewer than nine units to be accepted into the program if enrollment is part of an academic plan. EDGE is also in support of a \$20 million budget ask to fund this bill.

Position: Support

Status: Pending in Senate Appropriations Committee.

[ACR 163 \(Medina\) Adult Education Week.](#) Proclaims the week of March 27, 2022, to April 2, 2022, as Adult Education Week.

Position: Support