
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

SB 1200 (Glazer) - California State University students: California Promise: Finish in Four and Through in Two

Version: February 15, 2024
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: April 22, 2024

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill renames the California Promise Program established at the California State University (CSU) as the Finish in Four and Through in Two program. It further establishes an annual reporting requirement as specified and eliminates the January 1, 2026 sunset date, thereby extending the program indefinitely.

Fiscal Impact:

- The CSU indicates that the bill's reporting requirements will result in additional, but undefined administrative costs to gather the required information for the annual reporting. While the existing program currently requires CSU to solicit, review, admit, and advise participating students while also tracking them within its data system and ensure that they are maintaining eligibility for the program, campuses have had to absorb this workload within existing resources.
- The bill's removal of the sunset date would result in the continued administrative costs necessary to administer the Promise Program at CSU campuses, thereby eliminating the possibility of savings if the program were to expire. The extent of the forgone savings is unknown and would vary by campus.

Background: Existing law establishes the California Promise Program for the purposes of supporting CSU students in earning a baccalaureate degree within four academic years of the student's first year of enrollment, or for transfer students, within two academic years of the student's first year of enrollment to the campus.

Existing law requires participating campuses to provide priority registration in coursework provided that a student does not qualify for priority registration under another policy or program, as specified, and academic advisement that includes the monitoring of academic progress.

Existing law requires a student, in order to qualify for the program to be a California resident for purposes of in-state tuition eligibility and commit to completing at least 30 semester units or the quarter equivalent per academic year, including summer term units, as specified.

Existing law requires a campus to guarantee participation in the program to, at a minimum, any student who is a low-income student, as defined, a student who has graduated from a high school located in a community that is underrepresented in

college attendance, a first-generation college student or a transfer student who successfully completes his or her associate degree for transfer at a community college. As a condition of continued participation in a California Promise program, a student may be required to demonstrate both of the following: completion of at least 30 semester units, or the quarter equivalent, in each prior academic year and attainment of a grade point average in excess of a standard established by the campus.

The program sunsets on January 1, 2026.

Proposed Law: This bill renames the California Promise Program established at the CSU as the Finish in Four and Through in Two program, and requires the CSU Trustees, by July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to submit a report to the Legislature that includes all of the following information:

1. The program participation rate, as a percentage, and the number of students per campus.
2. Program participation demographics, including student race and ethnicity, whether the student is a federal Pell Grant recipient, whether the student is a first-generation college student, and whether the student entered as a first-time freshman or transfer student.
3. The amount of graduation initiative funds received and used per campus.

This bill eliminates the January 1, 2026 sunset date, effectively extending the program indefinitely.

Related Legislation: SB 856 (Glazer, 2023), similar to this bill, would have renamed the California Promise program at CSU as the “Finish in Four and Through in Two” program. It also would have required all incoming first-time students to enroll in the program with the option for students to opt out. SB 856 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 785 (Glazer, 2021) would have required at least 5 percent of each incoming class to participate in the California Promise program at each CSU campus. This bill was vetoed with the following message:

The author’s efforts to increase CSU graduation rates and close equity gaps are laudable. I too share these goals, which is why my Administration, and the CSU entered a five-year Compact aimed at increase student achievement, advancing equity, increasing affordability and meeting the State’s workforce needs. However, I am concerned that this bill is overly prescriptive and could result in diverting resources away from other student programs that may be more effective in realizing the goals of the Compact.

SB 148 (Glazer, 2019) would have established the Student Success and On-time Completion Fund in the State Treasury, and authorized the Trustees of the CSU to use money in the fund to incentivize participation in a California Promise Program through the offering of grants or tuition freeze, as specified. SB 148 also required CSU to waive

systemwide tuition or fees for a participating student unable to complete their degree due to limited space or no course offerings, as specified. SB 148 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Staff Comments: The California Promise Program supports CSU students in earning a baccalaureate degree within four academic years, or two years for transfer students. Students who commit to either the four-year or two-year pledge with the campus receive priority registration and routine and comprehensive academic advice. California Promise students self-select into the program and must complete 30 units per academic year and maintain minimum grade point average requirements. Participation is guaranteed for students who are low-income, graduated from a local high school, transferred from a community college or, are first-generation. Not all CSU majors are eligible for this program due to the curriculum and required units, and students must meet pledge requirements to remain in the program.

The program currently has a sunset date of January 1, 2026. This bill proposes to eliminate the sunset date, effectively extending the program indefinitely. The bill also proposed to rename the program as the Finish in Four and Through in Two program, and also establish an annual reporting requirement.

-- END --