

Date of Hearing: August 7, 2024

# ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 480 (Portantino) – As Amended June 17, 2024

Policy Committee:	Education	Vote:	7 - 0
	Labor and Employment		7 - 0

Urgency: No      State Mandated Local Program: No      Reimbursable: No

## SUMMARY:

This bill, contingent on appropriation, creates the High School Apprenticeship Pilot Program at the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide grants to three local educational agencies (LEAs) for two years. The bill also requires CDE and others to produce deliverables and take other actions related to career technical education.

Specifically, this bill, with relation to the High School Apprenticeship Pilot Program:

- 1) Requires CDE, by July 1, 2026, to provide grants to three LEAs competitively selected by CDE for use over two school years, commencing with the 2026-27 school year. While the bill specifies the grants are to be used for youth apprenticeship programs, the bill does not contain additional parameters for the use of grant funds.
- 2) Requires CDE, by August 1, 2025, to convene the high school apprenticeship interagency working group. The workgroup is to determine application procedures and selection criteria for High School Apprenticeship Pilot Program awards, identify data to be collected and develop pilot program study goals. The bill further requires CDE, by January 1, 2026, make the application available to LEAs.
- 3) Requires, by December 1, 2028, CDE to submit to the Legislature a report with program data and recommendations related to next steps for youth apprenticeship programs in high schools.

In addition, this bill:

- 4) Requires, by July 1, 2029, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in collaboration with the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to develop and adopt work-based learning program guidelines that ensure all students have access to equitable and grade-appropriate work-based learning opportunities.
- 5) Requires, by January 1, 2026, CDE, in collaboration with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to develop guidance on the definitions of youth apprenticeship programs, career technical education programs, preapprenticeship programs, and regional occupational programs.

- 6) Requires, by July 1, 2026, the State Board of Education to consider including youth apprenticeship programs as a work-based learning measure for the College/Career Indicator in the California School Dashboard.
- 7) Authorizes career technical education courses, when completed for purposes of meeting a high school graduation requirement, to include a course that includes participation in a pre-apprenticeship or a youth apprenticeship program.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures of an undefined, but likely significant amount, potentially in the range of \$1 million, for High School Apprenticeship Pilot Program grants.
- 2) Ongoing annual General Fund costs, through the 2028-29 academic year, of \$458,000 for CDE to hire three additional program staff at CDE to administer the pilot program, develop deliverables, and take other actions.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the General Fund faces a structural deficit in the tens of billions of dollars over the next several fiscal years.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California's diverse population faces varied economic disparities and institutional barriers that create obstacles that may make post-secondary education inaccessible. Creating work-based learning opportunities statewide would provide youth with a multitude of pathways to skilled employment that are debt-free and increase diversity and inclusion in various industries.

This bill is sponsored by the California Workforce Association.

- 2) **Background.**

***Career Technical Education and Apprenticeships.*** Career technical education is a program of study, typically offered in grades seven through 12, that involves a multiyear sequence of courses that integrate core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers. Career technical education programs in California schools are organized into 15 industry sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, health science, arts, and others.

Apprenticeship programs provide hands-on learning in a professional setting. Current law defines an "apprentice" to mean a person at least 16 years of age who has entered into an apprentice agreement with an employer or program sponsor, typically a labor union. Apprenticeship programs are approved by the Department of Apprenticeship Standards within the Department of Industrial Relations. Once in the apprenticeship, an apprentice receives on-the-job training and classroom instruction, all while earning wages. An apprentice typically must meet some minimum qualifications to enter an apprenticeship.

Some perspective apprentices may complete a “pre-apprenticeship” to meet these qualifications. Current law defines pre-apprenticeship program to mean a structured plan of training and studies based on industry standards that is designed to prepare individuals with the skills and competencies needed to enter an apprenticeship program.

High school career technical education programs and apprenticeship programs are similar in that both provide students an opportunity to combine classroom education with hands-on workforce training. According to the Assembly Labor Committee, the career technical education coursework students complete in high school may overlap with or fulfill the prerequisites for entry into an apprenticeship program.

This bill creates a grant program to support “youth apprenticeship” programs at three LEAs. This bill defines youth apprenticeship program as an apprenticeship program registered with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards that fulfills all existing registered apprenticeship requirements and serves youth between 16 and 24 years of age at the time of enrollment. The bill does not specify how funds are to be used to support youth apprenticeships, however, the author’s office indicates the funds would be used for (a) apprenticeship instruction, such as purchase of instructional materials, equipment, and for qualified instructors, (b) strategic planning and implementation-related costs in the first year of the pilot, (c) administrative costs and, (d) stipends or allowances to enrolled youth apprentices to cover expenses related to their participation in the program.

***Graduation Requirements.*** Current law establishes requirements for graduation from high school, including three courses in English, two courses in mathematics, two courses in science, three courses in social studies, one course in visual or performing arts or world languages or career technical education, two courses in physical education, and, commencing with the class of students graduating in the 2029-30 academic year, a one-semester course in ethnic studies.

This bill authorizes career technical education courses, for purposes of high school graduation requirements, to include a course that includes participation in a pre-apprenticeship or a youth apprenticeship program.

***California School Dashboard.*** Current law establishes state priorities for student achievement. One such priority is preparing students for college and career. The state measures this priority by (a) the percentage of students who have successfully completed college preparatory courses, (b) the percentage of students who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for career technical education sequences or programs, and (c) the percentage of students who have successfully completed both types of courses. Student outcomes in these three areas make up College/Career Indicator for the California School Dashboard. The California School Dashboard is a publically available scorecard indicating how LEAs perform in educating students. An LEA’s poor performance on School Dashboard indicators can result in state intervention in certain cases.

This bill requires the State Board of Education, the entity responsible for determining metrics and other topics related to the School Dashboard, to consider including pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs as a measure for the College/Career Readiness Indicator for the California School Dashboard.

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