

Date of Hearing: August 7, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 995 (Padilla) – As Amended June 20, 2024

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California State University (CSU) chancellor and the California Community Colleges (CCC) chancellor to develop a pilot program to create a new pathway that will allow a CCC student to complete a baccalaureate degree and a teaching credential at a CSU in four years.

Specifically, this bill requires, commencing in the 2025-26 school year, three CSU campuses to partner with three CCC campuses to participate in a five-year pilot program to create a four-year pathway between a CCC and CSU to become a credentialed teacher. The bill requires each pilot program at a CSU campus to partner with a CCC campus that has applied to participate in the pilot program and is within close proximity to the CSU campus. The bill requires, if a participating student completes their lower-division coursework at a CCC campus and is in good academic standing, the student be guaranteed admission to the teacher training program at the partnering campus of the CSU. The bill further requires pilot campuses to provide advisement to participating students to ensure they are completing the correct coursework during their participation in the program. Lastly, the bill requires pilot campuses to conduct marketing and outreach to local high schools to recruit a diverse pool of pilot participants.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs to each CCC pilot campus of between \$100,000 and \$170,000 to participate in the pilot program. Costs would be to coordinate the program with CSU and make other needed adjustments. Though CCC does not report ongoing costs associated with the program, it is likely CCC pilot campuses would incur some costs associated with continued coordination efforts, recruitment, and advising throughout the life of the pilot.
- 2) One-time General Fund costs to the CCC chancellor's office of between \$32,500 and \$53,000 to develop the application for the pilot program in coordination with the CSU chancellor's office, issue guidance, and provide technical assistance to campuses. The CSU chancellor's office does not report costs associated with these activities, though they would presumably have some minor costs as well.
- 3) Ongoing General Fund costs to each CSU pilot campus of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually to participate in the pilot. Costs would be higher in initial years to coordinate the program with CCC and make other needed adjustments. Costs for the remainder of the pilot would include continued coordination efforts, recruitment, and advising.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, this bill will serve several purposes: (a) to help alleviate the current teacher shortage, (b) to diversify the teacher workforce, and (c) to make becoming a teacher more affordable.
- 2) **Background.** California is experiencing teacher shortages, especially for math, science, special education, and bilingual education. Several variables have contributed to California's teacher shortage, including teacher burnout and retirement.

According to CSU, its teacher preparation program is the largest in the state, awarding about 7,000 California teaching credentials annually. To earn a teaching credential, a teacher candidate must typically hold a bachelor's degree and complete 600 hours of student teaching, among other requirements. CSU and some private institutions of higher education in California have teaching programs that allow students to earn their bachelor's degree and teaching credential in four years or five years.

Associates Degree for Transfer. To simplify transfer between CCC and four-year universities, the state adopted the Associates Degree for Transfer (ADT) about ten years ago. The ADT is a two-year, 60-unit degree awarded by CCC that guarantees a CCC student admission to CSU and to participating private institutions of higher education. A student who earns an ADT is automatically eligible to transfer as an upper-division student to a bachelor's degree program and need only complete two additional years of coursework to earn a bachelor's degree. As of today, 70 community colleges offer an ADT in Elementary Teacher Education, and 99 community colleges have an ADT in Early Childhood Education.

This bill creates a pilot program outside of the ADT framework to guarantee CCC student admission to a four-year teacher preparation program at CSU.

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