
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 1093

Hearing Date: July 1, 2026

Author: Solache

Version: June 22, 2026

Urgency: No

Fiscal: Yes

Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Public postsecondary education: academic exchange programs.

SUMMARY

This bill requires, commencing with the 2027-28 school year and upon an appropriation of funds, the California State University (CSU) and each community college district and requests the University of California (UC) to adopt a plan for increasing participation in exchange programs with universities in México. The bill further encourages California Community Colleges (CCC) and UCs to establish exchange programs and requires CSU to have an exchange program at least 10 of its campuses. Lastly, it authorizes the UC, CSU, and community college districts to enter into a tuition reciprocity agreement with universities participating in an exchange program and authorizes receipt of private contributions for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CSU, under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, the UC, under the administration of the Regents of the UC, and the CCC, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as the state's three public segments of postsecondary education. (Education Code (EC) § 66010.4, et seq.)
- 2) Exempts, until January 1, 2028, no more than 150 full-time equivalent students (FTES) from paying all or part of nonresident tuition fees if they are low-income students who are residents of Mexico who register for lower division courses at specified community colleges near the California-Mexico border and who reside within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border. (EC § 76140)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires, commencing with the 2027-28 school year and upon an appropriation of funds, California State University and each community college district, and requests UC to do both of the following:
 - a) Adopt a plan to increase the number of students participating in exchange

programs with universities in Mexico and identify existing exchange programs at CSU, UC, and community college districts.

- b) Make every effort to increase the number of students attending Mexican universities who participate in exchange programs with UC, CSU and CCCs.
- 2) Requires the CSU to have an exchange program with at least one Mexican public university at a minimum of 10 CSU campuses by January 31, 2027, and to make every effort to ensure that exchange programs with at least one Mexican public university are available to students at all CSUs by January 1, 2029.
- 3) Requires the CSU Chancellor to facilitate the distribution of sample educational materials for exchange programs and coordinate outreach that includes outreach with student services programs.
- 4) Requires each community college district to make every effort to have an exchange program with at least one Mexican public university at a minimum of one of the community college district's campuses by January 1, 2029.
- 5) States that it is the intent of the Legislature that the UC have an exchange program with at least one Mexican public university at each UC.
- 6) Authorizes UC, CSU and community college districts to enter into a tuition reciprocity agreement with universities participating in an exchange program.
- 7) Authorizes UC, CSU and community college districts to accept contributions from private sources, including private for-profit and nonprofit organizations, for the purposes of supporting exchange programs.
- 8) Prohibits CSU and community college districts from imposing a funding match required by México as a condition of implementing an exchange program and requests UC not to impose such a requirement.
- 9) Makes various findings and declarations related to the California-México region.
- 10) States that it is the intent of the Legislature to strengthen educational exchanges between students from California and México.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, "The California-Mexico bilateral relationship directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of people. Strengthening, our bi-national relationship in the higher education sector is necessary to achieve multiple co-benefits. This measure would formally institutionalize cross-border education partnerships and build out the infrastructure for consistent, robust academic exchange. These programs are crucial to identifying the emerging needs of shared workforce and economic drivers."

- 2) **Existing California-Mexico higher education partnerships.** California public higher education segments already maintain academic, research, and student exchange partnerships with universities in México. The CSU operates a Systemwide Student Exchange Program with more than 60 international partner institutions and maintains exchange agreements with several Mexican universities, including Tecnológico de Monterrey, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, and CETYS Universidad. The UC has maintained academic partnerships with Mexico for decades through programs such as UC MEXUS, Casa de la Universidad de California en México, the UC-México Initiative, and Alianza MX, which support student and faculty exchanges, collaborative research, and public policy initiatives. Additionally, existing law authorizes a California-México border tuition reciprocity pilot involving community colleges near the California-México border and institutions in Baja California. Given these existing activities, the Committee may wish to consider how the proposed California-México student exchange initiative would coordinate with or differ from current efforts already underway across the state's public higher education segments.
- 3) **Strengthening the planning process.** The CSU, and UC already maintain exchange programs with Mexican institutions. Existing law separately governs CCC participation in California-México student exchange partnerships. The bill requires the adoption of a plan to increase participation in exchange programs with universities in México and to identify existing exchange opportunities. However, the bill also establishes separate directives regarding the availability of exchange programs at CSU campuses and community college districts, including requiring CSU to have exchange programs with at least one Mexican public university at a minimum of 10 campuses by January 31, 2027 and directing community college districts to make every effort to establish exchange programs by January 2029, and requesting UC to make every effort to have exchanges programs available at each campus. Additionally, if the purpose of the bill's planning requirements is to assess existing partnerships, and develop strategies for increasing student participation, it is unclear why the bill also prescribes specific campus level exchange program requirements before the planning process occurs, or if it's needed given existing efforts. The Committee may wish to consider whether the bill should place greater emphasis on developing a comprehensive plan before establishing additional expectations for exchange programs across the public higher education segments.

As such, **Committee staff recommends that the bill be amended to** limit its scope to requiring the CSU and requesting the UC to adopt a plan for increasing participation in exchange programs with Mexican public universities and to delete the bill's remaining provisions relating to campus specific exchange program requirements, tuition reciprocity agreements, private contributions, and matching fund requirements. The **amendments would** instead require the plan to identify existing partnerships, establish goals and strategies for expanding participation, and strengthen outreach and coordination among campuses as follows:

Commencing with the 2027–28 academic year, the California State University shall, and the University of California is requested to adopt a plan to increase the number of students participating in exchange

programs with Mexican public universities. The plan shall include all of the following:

- *A description of existing exchange programs and institutional partnerships with Mexican public universities.*
- *Strategies to increase student participation in exchange opportunities, including expanding student access to or establishing exchange programs.*
- *Goals for expanding institutional partnerships with Mexican public universities.*
- *Outreach and student support activities designed to promote participation.*
- *Strategies to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration among campuses within their respective systems, including the sharing of resources, grant funding opportunities, best practices, and knowledge on exchange programs.*

SUPPORT

CFT — A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Faculty Association of California's Community Colleges

OPPOSITION

None received

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