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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Scott Wiener, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular

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<b>Bill No:</b>	AB 148	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	September 10, 2025
<b>Author:</b>	Committee on Budget		
<b>Version:</b>	September 8, 2025 As amended		
<b>Urgency:</b>	No	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
<b>Consultant:</b>	Yong Salas		

**Subject:** Higher Education

**Summary:** This bill provides for statutory changes necessary to enact the higher education-related provisions of the Budget Act of 2025.

**Proposed Law:** This bill, as part of the 2025-26 Budget Package, makes statutory changes to implement the 2025-26 Budget Act. Specifically:

- 1) **CCC Classified Staff.** Creates a two-year pilot program, beginning in 2026-27, that allows California Community College classified staff to use food pantry services offered at campus basic needs centers. The program would shift unused funds from the Classified Community College Employee Summer Assistance Program to basic needs centers to support the increased usage. Includes reporting language.
- 2) **Dual Enrollment Courses.** Includes intent language that high school students and students in adult education programs who are also enrolled in transfer-level community college courses for which they receive credit have those courses recognized for admissions purposes at the University of California and California State University.
- 3) **Middle Class Scholarship.** Requires the Student Aid Commission, University of California and California State University to develop institutional participation agreements outlining deadlines and issues regarding the program, and includes language stating that a student's Middle Class Scholarship amount need not be changed if the student's financial aid package changes by less than \$300 during the academic year.
- 4) **Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Program.** Amends the program to allow the Community College Chancellor's Office to use unused funds to support a systemwide technology platform that will allow all faculty to use and share open educational resources that limit or eliminate the need for textbooks.
- 5) **CCC Deferrals.** Makes technical changes to enact the deferral and payback process called for in the 2024 Budget Act.
- 6) **CCC Public School System Stabilization Act Funding.** Uses \$49.7 million from the Public School System Stabilization to support 2025-26 community

college costs. This was agreed to in the 2025 Budget Act but was accidentally omitted from previous trailer bill language.

- 7) **CCC Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program Set Aside.** Allows the Community College Chancellor's Office to use up to 3.5 percent, beginning in 2026-27, to develop statewide coordination and support for the MESA program.
- 8) **CCC Emergency Aid.** Makes changes to emergency aid funding provided in the 2025 Budget Act to allow the Chancellor's Office to redistribute unused funding to other districts and requires a 2026 report on how funds were used.
- 9) **CCC State Controller Payments.** Allows the Community College Chancellor's Office to use the apportionments process to issue payments for specific categorical programs, which will allow the state to more quickly distribute funding to districts.

**Fiscal Effect:** This bill appropriates \$49.7 million from the Public School System Stabilization Account for support of the California Community Colleges.

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