

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1636 (Solache)

As Amended April 27, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Permits Cerritos Community College District until January 1, 2032, to enter into a data sharing agreement with local education agencies to provide K-12 students with a pathway to automatically receive a community college student record for the expressed purpose of enrolling in college coursework at a California Community College.

Major Provisions

- 1) Establishes a pilot program by which Cerritos Community College District (Cerritos) will partner with the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges and local education agency to provide a streamlined approach for students who elect to participate to enroll in community college coursework. The pilot will sunset on January 1, 2032.
- 2) Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO) by September 1, 2027 to collaborate with Cerritos Community College District (Cerritos) to develop a method for a district to compile and transmit personally identifiable student information (student data) to the CCCCCO for the limited and expressed purpose of creating a community college record for course enrollment in a California Community College (CCC).
- 3) Beginning on September 30, 2027, Cerritos is permitted to enter into a data sharing agreement with the governing board of a local education agency for the purpose of exchanging student data to establish a community college student record for the students for purposes of enrolling into college coursework. The data sharing agreement shall include written consent of either the student or the student's guardian to provide the student data to both Cerritos and the CCCCCO for the purpose of creating a student record for enrollment in college coursework.
- 4) Limits the overall use of the student data for the expressed purpose of creating a community college record for course enrollment at a community college.
- 5) Establishes a reporting requirement by which Cerritos in partnership with the CCCCCO will submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2031 on the outcomes of the data sharing agreement.

COMMENTS

Cerritos Community College District (Cerritos). Established in 1955, Cerritos is a single community college district located within the county of Los Angeles and serves "the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and South Gate, as well as portions of Bell Gardens, East Compton, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Whittier." In the 2024-2025 academic year, Cerritos enrolled 35,577 students; of which 17,015 were full-time and 3,417 were high school students enrolled in a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment programs. Cerritos received \$246,005,438 in state, federal, and local revenues, or a total of \$14,458 per full-time student.

Since the Great Recession of 2010, the CCC system has focused on recruitment and retention to stem and recoup the loss of enrollment of students. While these efforts have replenished some of the enrollment loss, the CCC system has yet to fully recover their pre-2010 enrollment numbers. Cerritos also saw declining enrollment due to the Great Recession in 2010 and the COVID-19 pandemic; however, unlike the rest of the system, Cerritos has recovered and surpassed its past enrollment figures. Cerritos' enrollment grew between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic year by 7%, which is more than the increase in enrollment funding provided in the State Budget for enrollment growth across the entire system.

Geographical service area of the district. This measure stipulates that for a local education agency (LEA) to participate in the data sharing agreement the LEA must also have a CCAP agreement or a College Promise partnership with the district and be located within geographical service area of the district. According to the district, there are four LEAs that meet this description: ABC Unified School District, Downey Unified School District, Norwalk La Miranda Unified School District, and Bellflower Unified School District.

Existing admission processes for the CCC vs. what is being proposed. To apply for admission to the CCC, an applicant or prospective community college student must complete a two-part application process prior to enrolling in coursework at a community college. The student must first create a student profile on CCCApply.com; which is a four-minute process that includes providing personally identifying information such as your name, email address, home address, phone number, and social security number or taxpayer identification number. This creates a student profile within CCCApply.com for the student to complete their college application. Once the profile is established, the student is then prompted to fill in 203 data points (not all of which are required for every student) to help ascertain the student's overall education status, if the student is eligible for financial aid, if the student requires basic needs services, and/or the type of program the student is applying to attend. After completing the application, a student record is generated by the CCCCO and received by the colleges the student wishes to attend. The student is then able to enroll in coursework and begin the process of orienting themselves as a community college student.

The entire application can take up to an hour to complete and the generation of the student record takes up to 24 to 48 hours depending upon the number of applications being completed and digitally transmitted to the CCCCO. The concept proposed by the measure would bypass the existing online self-application process for high school students within the geographical boundary of one community college district. Instead of completing the CCCApply application, data from a student's high school record would be shared with the district and then subsequently with the CCCCO for the creation of a student record.

Several presumptions are being made by the measure that the CCCApply application process presents a significant barrier preventing students from seamlessly enrolling in coursework at the college. The first presumption is that not all of the 203 data elements, which comprise the application process, are not necessary for a college to enroll and provide services to students. Each of those 203 data elements are required by either state statute or are required by federal law. Each data element assists in determining if the student qualifies for financial aid, the type of tuition the student will be charged (resident or non-resident) and assists in placing the student in the appropriate math and English coursework based on their intended major. The CCC Apply application has been updated a myriad of times through an iterative process to help all students quickly and efficiently complete the application.

The measure also presumes a K-12 student record has the same information necessary for a student record at the community college to be generated. Conceptually, this would work if the high school record contained the information required by the CCCC to create the student record. However, according to the CCCC, the high school record is missing key data elements that only a student would be able to provide; therefore, this measure could be creating an unforeseen barrier by still requiring the student to provide the necessary data prior to the creation of a student record for the district. To accommodate the missing data, the measure has the CCCC working with Cerritos to establish a form to collect the missing data elements from students. The measure also, has the Chancellor's Office working in concert with Cerritos to develop a method by which student data will be transmitted from the K-12 district to Cerritos and to the CCCC for purposes of creating a student record. The method is to be done in compliance with state and federal privacy laws and will only use student data if the student has provided direct consent.

According to the Author

The author indicates "AB 1636 addresses a barrier high school graduates face to successfully transition from high school to community college despite their intention to enroll. While the systems are busy collecting data, students are struggling with the lengthy and confusing college application process, especially those first in their families to attend college. For students within the Cerritos Community College District, the existing CCCApply system adds unintentional friction. The CCCApply platform duplicates information already captured in the K12 data systems and often fails to process applications correctly for undocumented students, those without a Social Security number, or valid forms of identification."

The author further conveys, "AB 1636 builds on this success and authorizes Cerritos College to create a "ready-to-enroll" student record for every high school student in the College District's service and geographical area. By creating a student record, using existing student data and data systems, in partnership with K-12 districts, the bill offers high school students the immediate support needed to onboard, including assistance in applying for financial aid. The bill doesn't do away with existing data collecting systems or college applications, and it doesn't mandate students to enroll in college or at Cerritos College. It removes another barrier to higher education and ensures higher education is within reach for high school students, should they choose to attend college."

Arguments in Support

Cerritos College is in support of the measure as "AB 1636 directly addresses this challenge by allowing Cerritos College to seamlessly generate a student record through existing K-12 partnership processes, removing an early administrative hurdle that can prevent students from fully engaging with the college enrollment process. This change may appear administrative, but for our students it is transformational. By simplifying the early steps of enrollment, AB 1636 allows students to quickly connect with academic counseling, financial aid guidance, orientation programs, and other resources that support their successful transition to college. For students who may be navigating the college process for the first time, reducing complexity can make the difference between stopping at the application stage and continuing toward enrollment. Importantly, the approach outlined in AB 1636 builds upon existing data-sharing agreements between K-12 districts and the college, ensuring student information is handled responsibly and within established frameworks. The measure preserves student choice, allowing students to decide whether they ultimately enroll, and does not replace the existing CCCApply application process. The impact within our community will be significant. Cerritos College works closely

with local school districts through dual enrollment and Early College partnerships that already help thousands of students experience college-level coursework while still in high school. AB 1636 strengthens this pipeline by ensuring students are more seamlessly connected to the college as they prepare for their next educational step. By reducing unnecessary barriers at the front end of enrollment, the legislation will help more students move from high school to college, accelerate progress toward degrees and certificates, and strengthen the workforce pipeline for Southeast Los Angeles."

A partnering LEA, ABC Unified School District, is in support of the measure as "under the pilot, graduating students will automatically receive a 'ready-to-enroll' student identification number, allowing them to enroll if they choose. The measure preserves student choice and does not replace the existing CCCApply processes but instead removes procedural friction that disproportionately affects first-general students, working students, and residents of underserved communities."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

Minor and likely absorbable costs to the CCCCO to develop a data-sharing method for community college course enrollment for prospective students of the Cerritos Community College District.

- 1) Currently, all students enrolling in a community college use the CCCApply online application, which takes applicants an average of 45 minutes to complete according to the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. The alternative application method created by this bill may result in duplicative and increased manual workload for the CCCCO to create a student record for purposes of community college course enrollment, however, the CCCCO reports the bill's focus on only one district will minimize this additional workload.
- 2) While the bill does not have a significant fiscal effect, generally, the committee will move to the suspense file any bill it determines has the primary purpose of creating a pilot program.

VOTES

ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 10-0-0

YES: Fong, DeMaio, Boerner, Jeff Gonzalez, Jackson, Irwin, Patel, Bennett, Sharp-Collins, Tangipa

ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0

YES: Patel, Hoover, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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