

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1636 (Solache)

As Amended July 2, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

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

Senate Amendments

- 1) Authorizes Cerritos to develop a prototype by April 1, 2027, to compile and transmit student data to the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO) for the creation of a student record so the K-12 student can enroll in community college coursework at Cerritos. Requires the CCCCCO to review and approve the prototype for the transmission of data by September 1, 2027.
- 2) Removes the mention of method and replaces it with prototype.
- 3) Requires Cerritos to consult with both the CCCCCO and the California Department of Education to develop a form or process to obtain informed consent for participation in the data sharing agreement from students and if applicable, their guardians or parent.
- 4) Includes provision if the Commission on State Mandates determines there is a cost associated with the implementation of the measure, the State will reimburse local agencies and school districts for the determined cost.

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.

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 through which the students will 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 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. This measure would create an alternative prototype to the CCCApply application and would allow the information already contained by a K-12 student record or accessed by Cerritos to create a student record without the student having to complete CCCApply.

According to the Author

According to the author, "For high school students within the Cerritos Community College District service area, the existing CCCApply process can add unnecessary friction. Students may be required to re-enter information already captured in K-12 systems, and the application process can delay the point at which Cerritos College is able to provide advising, financial aid support, orientation, and enrollment preparation. AB 1636 authorizes Cerritos College to enter into seamless access to community college data-sharing agreements with eligible local educational agencies in its service area. These agreements must be approved by both governing boards in public meetings and must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws."

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 Senate Committee on Appropriations, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

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

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0-6

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarado-Gil

UPDATED

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