

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1769 (Ramos) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Trustees of the California State University (CSU), the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges (CCC), and requests the Regents of the University of California (UC), to develop and implement transfer agreement and articulation programs to support and enhance the transfer of students attending tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) to public postsecondary institutions. The bill prescribes the specific components that an articulation program must include and requires the expansion of concurrent enrollment opportunities for students currently enrolled at TCUs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Onetime General Fund costs of \$500,000 and ongoing General Fund costs of \$450,000 annually for the UC to include TCUs in the official course transfer and articulation systems in addition to staff time to develop and implement transfer agreements.
- 2) Ongoing General Fund costs of an unknown amount but likely in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars for the CSU to include TCUs in the official course transfer and articulation systems in addition to staff time to develop and implement transfer agreements.
- 3) Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an unknown amount but possibly in the low millions of dollars for community college districts (CCDs), collectively statewide, to implement transfer agreement and articulation programs with TCUs.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, many students transferring from a TCU to a traditional four-year institution end up undertaking duplicative coursework because there is not an articulation process. The author claims the intent of this bill is to “ensure effective and efficient progression for these students as they continue their pursuit in higher education” by requiring the CSU, CCC, and requesting the UC, to develop and implement transfer and articulation pathways for students attending California TCUs.
- 2) **Background.** According to the California Indians Nations College (CINC), California is home to one-fifth of all federally recognized Tribes with over 1.4 million people statewide who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native. California also has three TCUs: the CINC,

the California Tribal College, and the Kumeyaay Community College. According to EdTrust-West, “students who attend a TCU before attending a mainstream four-year institution are four times as likely to earn their bachelor’s degree than those who attend a mainstream four-year institution right after high school.” However, transfer agreements and articulation programs do not recognize courses completed at a TCU.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1641 (Ramos), of the current legislative session, adds the TCUs located and operated in California to the definition of public higher education institutions. AB 1641 is pending referral on the Senate Floor.

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