

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1769 (Ramos)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC) that offer a baccalaureate degree, and requests the University of California (UC), to develop and implement transfer and articulation pathways for students attending California tribal colleges and universities (TCUs).

Senate Amendments

- 1) Stipulate that in developing a transfer agreement or articulation program, the CSU and the CCC shall, and the UC is requested to, work collaboratively with participating TCUs to identify opportunities to align coursework with the California General Education Transfer Curriculum, where appropriate.
- 2) Add intent language related to associate degree for transfer.
- 3) Replace Board of Governors references with the CCC District.
- 4) Replace reference to the California Articulation Number system with Course Identification Numbering System and the Common Course Numbering Project.
- 5) Specify that this measure does not require the UC, the CSU, or the CCC, to articulate coursework completed at a TCU that is not institutionally accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- 6) Clarify that an articulation agreement does not require a public postsecondary educational institution to accept a student who does not meet minimum transfer requirements.

COMMENTS

What are TCUs? According to California Indian Nations College (CINC), tribal colleges and universities are part of the treaty and trust responsibilities between the government and tribes. TCUs provide culturally relevant education and serve populations historically underrepresented in higher education.

According to CINC, "tribal colleges and universities do not fit into any of the segments of higher education listed in California Education Code Section 66010. They are not part of the University of California, California State University, nor the California Community College system. As TCUs are public institutions, not private, they are not part of the Independent California Colleges and Universities segment."

Further, data provided by CINC shows California has one-fifth of all federally recognized tribes and 1.4 million people who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, the largest overall population of any state. Native American students who attend a TCU before attending a mainstream four-year institution are four times more likely to earn their bachelors degree compared to their peers who enroll directly in a mainstream four-year institution."

California currently is home to three TCUs: 1) CINC; 2) California Tribal College; and, 3) Kumeyaay Community College.

Equity in transfer pathways. While California has made significant progress in intersegmental transfer systems, TCUs have historically been less integrated into these pathways. This measure addresses a gap by formally incorporating TCUs into statewide transfer planning. By improving transfer pathways there is a high likelihood that the State will see an increase in certificate and degree attainment among Native American students; which will also support workforce participation, aligning with broader State goals related to equity and economic mobility.

According to the Author

According to the author, "currently, there is not a tribal college articulation process for ensuring that coursework at tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) can seamlessly transfer. Since there is no process, this leads to the duplication of coursework which does not ensure an efficient transfer process for the student. Research done by Rachel Bryan [author of *Native American Student Success: The Effect of Tribal Colleges and Universities on Native American Student Retention*] shows that Native American students who attend a TCU before a traditional four-year institution are four times more likely to earn their bachelor's degree compared to their peers who enroll directly. With that said, ensuring that we have a process in place for students is of importance for two reasons: to prevent duplication of coursework allowing for a streamlined transfer process and to prevent additional tuition costs."

The author states that, "tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) offer culturally relevant education and serves to bridge the gap in postsecondary education for Native American students. When students who are enrolled at a TCU decide to transfer to one of California's higher education institutions, they may be met with the challenge of ensuring courses they have taken are accepted at their new university."

Further, the author contends that, "to ensure these students are not burdened by duplicative courses if they decide to transfer, we must work to establish transfer agreements. This would offer a helpful tool when it comes to transferring and aim to ensure effective and efficient progression for these students as they continue their pursuit in higher education."

Arguments in Support

According to the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, "the Nation believes it is important to facilitate the articulation and seamless transfer of courses for students attending TCUs to California's postsecondary institutions. Tribal students attending TCUs should no longer be concerned about whether the coursework they are spending their time on will seamlessly transfer, which results in more time for students to focus on their studies and career paths. AB 1769 is a practical and thoughtful solution to a long-standing issue."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

- 1) The UC estimates one-time General Fund costs of \$500,000 and ongoing costs of \$450,000 each year to bring in the California Indian Nations College and future tribal colleges into

Articulation System Stimulating Interinstitutional Student Transfer (ASSIST) which is the official course transfer and articulation systems that the CCCs use for transfer, and staff time to develop and implement transfer agreements.

- 2) The CSU estimates additional General Fund costs possibly in the low millions of dollars for major preparation articulation, including one-time costs for campuses to evaluate and create major-course articulation for each AA degree offered by participating tribal colleges, mapping degree and course requirements to CSU major preparation and transfer admission expectations. This estimate also includes ongoing costs in the mid to high hundreds of thousands of dollars pertaining to student support services and outreach.
- 3) The CCC Chancellor's Office estimates Proposition 98 General Fund costs of \$600,000 to \$1.4 million each year for the 49 colleges that offer a baccalaureate degree program to implement and maintain transfer agreement and articulation programs including coordinated counseling, financial aid and transfer services, and concurrent enrollment.

This estimate assumes a cost of \$15,000 to \$29,000 for each of these colleges. However, the costs could be lower to the extent that the program is integrated within existing resources. The CCC Chancellor's Office also estimates one-time workload costs of between \$13,000 and \$59,000 to assess the Common Course Numbering system, the California Education General Education Transfer Curriculum, and ASSIST to facilitate student transfers from the TCUs. These costs could be higher to the extent this assessment results in updates to these systems to ensure integration.

VOTES:

ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 9-0-1

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Celeste Rodriguez

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-2

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, 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: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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