

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1829 (Fong) – As Amended April 6, 2026

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	8 - 1
	Human Services		7 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill expands eligibility and direct aid services for the California Community Colleges (CCC) CalWORKs Recipient Education Program (REP) and allows the CCCs to waive the required employer payment for eligible workstudy employees.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No new state costs. According to the Chancellor’s Office of the CCC, CalWORKs REPs at CCCs throughout the state have accumulated significant funds due to restrictions under current law, in the low tens of millions statewide, and this bill allows CalWORKs REPs to use these existing Proposition 98 funds on existing CalWORKs REP students.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Many student parents are forced to choose between meeting their family basic needs and pursuing their academic goals. Often, these students face significant barriers, including the rising cost of necessities, childcare responsibilities, and limited employment opportunities. AB 1829 provides community colleges with greater flexibility to support CalWORKs REP students financially, academically, and professionally.

2) **Background.** CalWORKs is the state’s primary cash assistance program. CalWORKs implements the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and provides eligible low-income families with cash grants and supportive services aimed at helping them to secure education, training, and employment. The supportive services include, among other things, mental health counseling, substance use disorder treatment, or domestic violence services; job skills training; and attendance in a secondary school or in a course leading to certificate of general educational development.

Established in 2014, the CalWORKs Education Program provides education, training, support services, and job opportunities to individuals receiving CalWORKs services from the county. CalWORKs program funds must assist CalWORKs recipient students and those students transitioning off of CalWORKs in achieving long-term self-sufficiency through

coordinated student services offered at a community college, such as subsidized childcare and workstudy.

A Proposition 98 General Fund appropriation and federal funding provided through TANF, \$55 million and \$7 million, respectively, support the CalWORKs Education Program. Current law authorizes CCCs to provide direct aid to students only from the portion of the CalWORKs Recipient Education Program provided by TANF funds. This bill adds direct aid designed to meet basic needs services and resources to the list of student services funded by the CalWORKs Recipient Education Program, including from Proposition 98 General Fund monies.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 363 (Bryan), of the current legislative session, was substantially similar to this bill. AB 363 was held in this committee.

Analysis Prepared by: Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081