

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1871 (Fong) – As Introduced February 12, 2026

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	10 - 0
	Education		9 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill makes various changes to the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program under which students at a participating local educational agency (LEA) may dually enroll in a partnered community college district (CCD).

Specifically, this bill authorizes a student, without a principal’s recommendation, to complete one application for the duration of their attendance at a community college under a CCAP agreement, removes the four course per term limit while retaining the 15 units cap, and revises the annual CCAP reporting requirement on a participating CCD and LEA.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures of an unknown amount, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to the millions of dollars annually, to the extent this bill results in increased state apportionment costs arising from additional student participation in CCAP. Exact costs would depend on the number of students newly participating in CCAP programs and the number of courses they take at a partner CCD.

The Budget Act of 2022 included \$200 million for dual enrollment expansion, with \$100 million earmarked for CCAP expansion, all of which has been fully disbursed by the California Department of Education (CDE). Similarly, the 2026-27 Governor’s Budget proposes an additional \$100 million one-time funding investment in dual enrollment pathways, all of which could be used to support CCAP expansion.

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:

AB 1871 will ensure more equitable access to dual enrollment opportunities for all students by streamlining the application process so that a student completes only one application for the duration of their attendance at a community college as a unique part-time student participating in a CCAP agreement. This will avoid confusion of the application process and remove an unnecessary hurdle that limits access to dual enrollment opportunities.

- 2) **Background. Dual Enrollment.** State law provides several avenues for a high school student to concurrently enroll in higher education courses prior to graduation. Specifically, a student may participate in (a) College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships, (b) traditional dual enrollment, (c) the Early College High School program (ECHS), or (d) the Middle College High School (MCHS) Program. Additionally, students may take college courses on their own time and not part of an official dual enrollment pathway, in which case the course does not count as dual credit (both high school and college credit).

Under CCAP, an LEA and the CCD in its service area enter into a partnership agreement to provide dual enrollment opportunities to the LEA's high school students. CCAP has various advantages to students as compared to traditional dual enrollment. CCAP statute prohibits colleges from charging students enrollment fees and requires that textbooks and supplies be provided to students free of charge, and classes are typically on a high school campus, among other differences. Since the founding of CCAP, the Legislature has made various statutory changes to refine the program. According to the CCC Chancellor's Office, in the 2019-20 school year, about 75,000 high school students enrolled in community college courses as part of a CCAP program. In terms of additional full-time-equivalent students (FTES) and the associated funding for participating CCDs, from the academic year 2018-19 and 2025-26, community college dual enrollment (not limited to CCAP) has increased from 37,370 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students to an estimated 65,620 FTE students.

This bill codifies several recommendations from a November 2023 Assembly Higher Education committee oversight hearing on the subject to establish CCAP partnerships as the premier and primary dual enrollment program in the state. The author of this bill contends this codification would help unify and streamline college coursework attainment for K-12 students regardless of the location of the high school.

**CCAP Funding.** The CCAP program credits a CCD with apportionment funding for students enrolled in CCAP for up to 15 units per term (1.0 FTE). CCAP students may generate full CCC apportionment funding of \$7,346 per full-time equivalent student for this instruction, depending on the number of courses taken, credited to the CCC. High school students generate Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding of \$12,460 per student annually for the school districts they attend, with additional funding for disadvantaged students. As long as a high school student participating in a CCAP program enrolls in a minimum of three hours of instruction per day at the student's high school, the student generates full LCFF funding for the school. However, current law prohibits a partner LEA from receiving state funding for an instructional activity for which the CCD receives state funding, and vice versa.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 988 (Fong), of the current legislative session, requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to develop statewide dual enrollment framework to provide guidance to local educational agencies (LEAs). AB 988 was held in this committee.

AB 731 (Fong), of the current legislative session, was identical to this bill. AB 731 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

- 4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 359 (Holden), of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, would have updated the CCAP partnership language to address the concerns raised during the Assembly Committee on Higher Education Oversight hearing in November of 2023. AB 359 was vetoed by the Governor who cited significant General Fund costs.

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