
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1871 (Fong) - Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships

Version: February 12, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill makes various changes to the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment program, including the authorization of a single application for student participation, removing the requirement that students obtain a principal recommendation, and eliminating the limit of four college courses per term.

Fiscal Impact: This bill could result in annual Proposition 98 General Fund costs, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, for additional state apportionments due to increased CCAP enrollment and program participation. However, the bill's exact costs would depend on the number of new students that participate and the number of courses being taken.

Background: Existing law authorizes school districts and community college districts to establish CCAP partnerships to offer dual enrollment opportunities for underrepresented or non-college-bound students. It requires students participating in CCAP to obtain a principal recommendation and submit a parental consent form.

Existing law authorizes a community college to claim apportionment for courses offered exclusively to high school students under a CCAP agreement and prohibits the charging of student fees.

Existing law allows high school students under CCAP to enroll in up to 15 units per term, but limits the number of courses to four.

Existing law requires annual reporting of CCAP data, including student demographics, course completions, and full-time equivalent students (FTES) generated.

Proposed Law: This bill makes various changes to the CCAP dual enrollment program, including the following:

1. Eliminates the requirement that a high school principal recommend a student for participation in a CCAP partnership.
2. Requires CCAP partnership agreements to establish protocols authorizing participating students to complete a single community college application for the duration of their attendance as a special part-time student under the CCAP partnership.

3. Removes the existing limitation that restricts CCAP students enrolled under the 15-unit exception to no more than four community college courses per term.
4. Retains the existing 15-unit maximum per term for participating students.
5. Revises annual reporting requirements by replacing the requirement to report the total number of community college courses taken by CCAP participants with outcome-oriented measures.
6. Requires reporting of successful course completions by instructional modality, including online and in-person coursework.

Related Legislation: AB 731 (Fong, 2025) was nearly identical to this bill and held on the Suspense File in this committee.

Staff Comments: Dual enrollment programs enable high school students to concurrently enroll in college courses and earn college credit while still in high school. These programs aim to improve college access, reduce time to degree, and expose students to the expectations of higher education. Specifically, a student may participate in CCAP partnerships, the Early College High School program, or the Middle College High School Program. Students may also take college courses on their own time and not part of an official dual enrollment pathway, but those courses will not count as dual credit. Under CCAP partnerships, an LEA and the community college district in its service area enter into an agreement to provide dual enrollment opportunities to the LEA's high school students. CCAP statute prohibits colleges from charging students enrollment fees, requires that textbooks and supplies be provided to students free of charge, and classes are typically on a high school campus. The Chancellor's Office indicates that about 75,000 high school students enrolled in community college courses as part of a CCAP program in the 2019-20 school year.

This bill makes various changes to the CCAP dual enrollment program and would codify several recommendations from an Assembly Higher Education committee oversight hearing in November 2023.

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