
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2236 (Berman) - Postsecondary education: articulation agreements

Version: June 30, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 6 - 1

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCCs) to establish an agreement for implementing streamlined system-level articulation by using the common course numbering (CCN) templates, rather than individual course review, for determining credit mobility.

Fiscal Impact:

- The UC estimates one-time General Fund costs of \$2.95 million over a three-year period and additional ongoing costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars for campuses to upgrade their current curriculum management systems.
- The CSU estimates one-time General Fund costs in the mid to upper hundreds of thousands of dollars faculty, staff, and system development efforts, and additional ongoing General Fund costs in the low to mid hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for technology, data storage, and maintenance costs.
- The Chancellor's Office indicates no new state costs to the CCCs as the bill leverages existing Proposition 98 General Fund investments in the development of the CCN system at the CCCs already underway. The Chancellor's Office estimates ongoing General Fund workload costs of \$12,000 to \$24,000 each year to provide technical assistance, release updated guidance, and post the requested information on CCN templates.
- This bill would authorize the Chancellor's Office to divert previously appropriated Proposition 98 funding to the UC and CSU to support the intersegmental implementation of CCN. Allowable uses of funds include faculty and staff workload associated with curriculum alignment, review, and approval processes; intersegmental coordination and governance activities; and technology and data system upgrades to support CCN alignment and articulation. The funding provided to UC and CSU would need to be approved by the Chancellor's Office. It is unclear if sufficient funds remain to cover all of the costs to UC and CSU imposed by this bill.

Background: Existing law establishes the CCCs, a postsecondary education system in this state, under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG), and specifies that the CCC system consists of community college districts.

Existing law requires the CCCs, by July 1, 2027, to adopt a CCN system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses, and requires each CCC campus, by July 1, 2027, to incorporate common course numbers from the adopted system into its course catalog. The law requires the specified CCN system to be student facing, based on the work of the workgroup established in the 2021 Budget Act, and ensure that comparable courses across all CCCs have the same course number. Existing law also requires the workgroup, in order to support the development and implementation of a CCN system for the CCC system, to consider starting with courses included in the Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID) and expanding to general education requirements and transfer pathway courses, as specified.

Proposed Law: This bill requires ICAS of the UC, the CSU, and the CCCs, by July 1, 2027, to establish an agreement for implementing streamlined system-level articulation by using the CCN templates, rather than individual course review, for determining credit mobility between the CCCs, the CSU, and the UC, so all CCC courses subject to the specified CCN system articulate the same way across all CCCs, CSU, and UC campuses.

This bill requires the respective administrative bodies of the UC, CSU, and CCCs, if ICAS of the UC, CSU, and CCCs has not established the specified agreement before July 1, 2027, to establish an agreement for implementing streamlined system-level articulation by using the CCN templates, rather than individual course review, for determining credit mobility between the CCCs, the CSU, and the UC, so all CCC courses subject to the specified CCN system articulate the same way across all CCCs, the CSU, and the UC.

This bill requires the streamlined system-level articulation agreement, commencing with the fall term of the 2028-29 academic year, be the only articulation agreement used for community college courses subject to the specified CCN system. It also requires the specified streamlined system-level articulation agreement to include student protections to ensure students do not lose credits, do not have any removal of credits, and do not repeat courses already completed to meet academic requirements with a passing grade.

This bill requires the streamlined system-level articulation agreement to not invalidate any systemwide or local articulation approvals already granted before July 1, 2028.

This bill requires the streamlined system-level articulation agreement to not require the redesign, replacement, or restart of the CCN template development and review process, and specifies this to not be construed to prevent future updates to CCN templates. It also requires, consistent with national best practices, the system-level articulation agreement require no more than 70% content alignment in order to establish equivalency.

This bill requires the respective administrative bodies of the CCCs and CSU, and requests of the respective administrative body of the UC, by June 1 of each year, publicly post on their respective internet websites a report on all of the following for the previous academic year:

1. How many CCN templates were submitted for review for articulation.

2. How many CCN templates were reviewed for articulation.
3. How many CCN templates were approved or denied for articulation.
4. The rationale for any denials of CCN templates for articulation, including which standards were not met.
5. The resubmission timeline for any CCN templates denied articulation, including whether a resubmission for the full review process is required to correct issues identified in the denial.

This bill requires the Chancellor's Office, in consultation with the administrative bodies of the CSU and the UC, identify a limited-term funding plan that would provide funding to the CSU and the UC to support the intersegmental implementation of the specified CCN system, with the funding plan identifying limited-term costs supported by a clear justification demonstrating consistency with prior workload and implementation cost estimates. It requires the funding plan identify existing, previously allocated funding from one-time funding sources, including, but not limited to, the 2022 Budget Act appropriation for CCCs' implementation of CCN, to support implementation strategies, which may include any of the following: faculty and staff workload associated with curriculum alignment, review, and approval processes; intersegmental coordination and governance activities; and technology and data system upgrades to support CCN alignment and articulation.

This bill requires that the funding identified for the specified funding plan be reallocated from previously allocated funding for the CCN system or related funding and not include any new Proposition 98 General Fund.

This bill defines "common course numbering template" as a template developed pursuant to the systemwide implementation plan recommended by the CCN workgroup funded in the 2021 Budget Act.

This bill requires each campus of the CCCs and the CSU, and requests of each campus of the UC, by June 1 of each year, publicly post, in a clearly visible and easily accessible manner, on the ASSIST.org website, or its successor, the name and contact information of the articulation lead or individual responsible for managing the course articulation process at the campus.

Staff Comments: AB 1111 (Berman, Chapter 568, Statutes of 2021) established a goal of CCN to streamline transfer two to four-year postsecondary educational institutions and create a unified course numbering system across the CCCs. This bill is intended to further integrate the CCN system by implementing streamlined system-level articulation using the CCN templates for determining credit mobility between the CCCs, the CSU, and the UC. The intent is that all CCC courses subject to the CCN system articulate the same way across all CCCs, CSU, and UC campuses. This bill also asserts that a system-level articulation agreement should be how articulation is determined, rather than individual course review, and codifies the use of CCN templates for purposes of determining articulation.

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