

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2392 (Fong) – As Amended March 16, 2026

[Note: This bill is double referred to the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection and will be heard by that Committee as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: artificial intelligence products: training

SUMMARY: Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and would request the University of California (UC), before providing an artificial intelligence product to students, faculty, or staff, to provide a training to students, faculty, or staff on the use of the product, including, but not limited to, relevant policies concerning the use of artificial intelligence and a disclosure of privacy policies.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the CSU, under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, the University of California (UC), under the administration of the Regents of the UC, the California Community Colleges (CCC), under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, and independent institutions of higher education as four segments of postsecondary education in the state. (Education Code (EDC) Sections 66010, 70900, 66600, and California Constitution, Article IX, Section 9)
- 2) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to convene a working group on AI, and requires that working group to develop expanded guidance and a model policy on AI for use by local educational agencies (LEAs). (EDC Section 33328.5)
- 3) Requires the Secretary of Government Operations, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to evaluate, among other things, the impact the proliferation of deepfakes has on state government, California-based businesses, and residents of the state, and the risks, including privacy risks, associated with the deployment of digital content forgery technologies and deepfakes on state and local government, California-based businesses, and residents of the state. (Government Code Section 11547.5 et seq.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* According to the author, “On August 26th, 2025, the Assembly Committees on Higher Education & Privacy and Consumer Protection jointly held an oversight hearing to examine the California State University’s AI-Empowered Initiative. A key finding of this hearing was that students, faculty, and staff did not receive training on ChatGPT Edu prior to the deployment of that tool throughout the CSU system. Another key finding of the hearing was that students, faculty, and staff expressed a lack of clarity around institutional policies concerning AI use, and the privacy of information shared with AI systems.”

The author continues that, “AB 2392 applies lessons learned from the rollout of CSU’s AI-Empowered Initiative, and will ensure that public segments of higher education, before providing

an AI tool, program, or application to students, faculty, or staff provide training on the use of that product. AB 2392 also ensures that training includes relevant policies concerning the use of artificial intelligence, and a disclosure of privacy policies for the AI product.”

CSU AI-Empowered Initiative. On February 4th, 2025, the CSU system announced their Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Empowered Initiative. In their press release, the CSU indicated that their goal was to “leverage the power of artificial intelligence to create an AI-empowered higher education system that could surpass any existing model in both scale and impact.” Among the various elements of this initiative included the systemwide deployment of an AI tool developed by OpenAI - ChatGPT Edu – that would enable “...students, faculty, and staff to use AI to accelerate learning, optimize workflow efficiency, and foster cross-departmental collaboration.” The contract for ChatGPT Edu \$16.9 million, and runs from February 2025 through July 2026.

Although “ChatGPT” has become a somewhat ubiquitous term for generative AI tools, many different technology companies have deployed AI products that are now embedded in common e-mail, word processing, and document production systems. An element of CSU’s AI-Empowered Initiative also highlights partnerships with some world’s leading tech companies, including Adobe, Alphabet (Google), AWS, IBM, Instructure, Intel, LinkedIn, Microsoft, and NVIDIA, in addition to OpenAI.

Student response. The California State Student Association (CSSA) released a white paper regarding the CSU’s AI-Empowered Initiative on February 24th, 2026. The whitepaper noted that, while students broadly recognize AI’s potential to enhance creativity and learning, the implementation has been rushed, inconsistent, and lacking adequate training and awareness. Many students are unaware of the tool or unsure how to use it, and there is no unified guidance across classrooms, leading to confusion about acceptable AI use. This inconsistency is compounded by conflicting faculty approaches—some encourage AI while others penalize it—along with unreliable AI-detection tools that have led to false accusations and increased anxiety.

Beyond implementation challenges, the white paper highlights major concerns about privacy, transparency, sustainability, and governance. Students worry about how their data is collected and used, expressing distrust in the system despite the availability of an official platform. Students also question the financial transparency of the initiative and its alignment with broader CSU budget cuts. Environmental concerns are prominent as well, with many students criticizing the lack of attention to AI’s energy and water consumption and its conflict with CSU’s climate goals.

Additionally, the paper raises ethical and mental health concerns, including risks from harmful AI outputs and overreliance on the technology. Across all areas, a central theme emerges: students feel excluded from decision-making and call for greater oversight, clearer policies, and consistent inclusion in governance to ensure AI is implemented responsibly, ethically, and in alignment with student needs.

Joint Hearing. In order to better understand the specifics of CSU’s AI-Empowered Initiative, the Assembly Committee on Higher Education partnered with the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection to conduct an Oversight Hearing on August 26, 2025.

Upon questioning from the Committees, it became clear that there had been no training requirement in place for students, faculty, and staff prior to the deployment of ChatGPT Edu.

Testimony also indicated confusion from students, faculty, and staff regarding specific institutional AI policies, from general privacy concerns to the degree with which generative AI products can be used in academic and workplace settings.

Following the hearing, the CSU Chancellor's Office sent follow-up information to the Committees to address specific about required training. CSU noted that the system "...is committed to providing its students and employees with training opportunities to best use the technology platforms it makes available. While training on AI or other technology platforms is not required, many campuses have begun including the use of AI into their new student orientation and first-year experience activities. Additionally, a variety of online and in-person AI training courses are offered to students, staff and faculty via the Chancellor's Office and individual campuses. The CSU hosts the AI Commons training website that has a wide range of training opportunities."

Existing workgroups and initiatives. The UC, CSU, and CCCs have each undertaken AI-related initiatives. Examples include:

- 1) The UC convened the "UC Presidential Working Group on Artificial Intelligence" in 2020, which issued a final report in 2021 titled "Responsible Artificial Intelligence: Recommendations to Guide the University of California's Artificial Intelligence Strategy." The recommendations included in this final report include:
 - a) Institutionalize the UC Responsible AI Principles in procurement, development, implementation, and monitoring practices;
 - b) Establish campus-level councils and support coordination across UC that will further the principles and guidance developed by this Working Group;
 - c) Develop an AI risk and impact assessment strategy; and,
 - d) Document AI-enabled technologies in a public database.
- 2) As part of their AI-Empowered Initiative, the CSU announced in February 2025 that it would be using a comprehensive strategy, which included an AI Workforce Acceleration Board. The CSU Board of Trustees Joint Committee on Educational Policy & Finance presented the CSU Artificial Intelligence Strategy during the Board's January 2025 meeting. The Academic Senate of the CSU called for a working group on AI in higher education in 2023, and has passed subsequent resolutions regarding AI in 2024 and 2025.
- 3) The CCC has established the Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation and Equity to represent a strategic approach to supporting the CCC's Vision 2030, including leading in innovation, harnessing the power of generative AI, public and private technology partnerships, and transforming the CCC's ability to serve students as they move into an AI-powered workforce.

Additionally, in November 2024, the California Education Learning Lab announced the recipients of the "AI Grand Challenge: Leveraging AI for Teaching and Learning" grants, aimed at fostering innovation in the use of AI to enhance curriculum and pedagogy within California's public higher education system. Nearly 75 institutions from the CCC, CSU and UC systems

submitted 32 proposals. Five projects have been selected to receive grants of up to \$1.5 million each. The Foundation for California Community Colleges is administering the grants on behalf of the State. The awarded projects aim to create significant influence on teaching and learning experiences statewide and will strive to reach approximately 150,000 students and 13,500 faculty/instructors across California's public higher education institutions and beyond.

Arguments in support. The California Teachers Association (CTA) wrote in support of the measure, noting that, "AI tools, programs, and applications are becoming increasingly pervasive in California's public higher education systems. This underscores the critical need for educators, students, and staff to be adequately trained on their uses and implications. AB 2392 would establish a necessary framework for transparency and labor protection in AI's application."

CTA continues that, "as campuses explore AI platforms to track student engagement (e.g., logins, discussion frequency, or assignment completion), there is an increasing risk that these data points will be used to generate instructor effectiveness reports. Without the training mandated by AB 2392, faculty may be evaluated based on opaque, algorithmic metrics they do not understand and cannot challenge. The bill ensures that training covers the use of the product, which must include a clear explanation of how metrics are calculated and weighted."

CTA adds that, "additionally, in many scenarios, institutions may adopt AI tutoring systems without a clear understanding of how student learning data is handled. This risks sensitive student data being sold to or utilized by third-party vendors without meaningful disclosure. AB 2392 mandates that training include relevant policies and privacy disclosures, which ensures that the campus community understands exactly how their data is being handled. This helps prevent privacy breaches and empowers faculty to guide students on the limitations of these tools."

Committee comments. Committee staff notes that AI continues to be integrated into commonly used systems, including e-mail, word processing, and organizational tools. Moving forward, the author may wish to consider if the scope should be narrowed to certain types of Generative AI products. The author should also consider building a timeline to comply with the proposal, and define the manner in which training should be provided.

Committee staff also notes that this legislation is double-referred to the Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection, and perhaps some best practices in the AI space from other sectors of state government can be applied to this policy.

Related legislation. SCR 82 (Niello, 2025) encourages the President of the UC, the Chancellor of the CSU, and the Chancellor for the CCC to create a workgroup of faculty, staff, and administrators to review the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education. SCR 82 is currently pending a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Community College Independents
California Teachers Association

Opposition

None on file

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