

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2392 (Fong)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor's Office and the California State University (CSU), and requests of the University of California (UC), to: 1) convene a joint working group to develop standards for responsible GenAI training and procurement, as specified, and 2) provide the specified training to students, faculty, or staff, as applicable.

Senate Amendments

Amendments taken in the Senate:

- 1) Remove a requirement that an updated training be provided to students, faculty, and staff before their continued use of a product has undergone a material change in functionality or privacy practices.
- 2) Replace language that requires that a report be submitted to the Legislature before executing a contract for the procurement of a GenAI system, and instead require that a report is required 60 days following the execution of a systemwide contract of a GenAI system.
- 3) Clarify that the requirements of this bill apply to the UC, CSU, and CCC systems, not individual campuses.
- 4) Change references to the "California Community Colleges" to instead be the "California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office".
- 5) Add representatives from labor organizations representing the segments to a workgroup developing responsible training protocols and procurement standards for GenAI.
- 6) Specifies that representatives from systemwide academic senates be included in a workgroup developing responsible training protocols and procurement standards for GenAI.
- 7) Provide an overview of the privacy policies applicable to a GenAI system, not just the privacy policies themselves.

COMMENTS

CSU AI-Empowered Initiative. On February 4th, 2025, the CSU system announced their 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.

According to the Author

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 a GenAI system 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 GenAI product."

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."

The Academic Senate of the CCC wrote that, "as generative AI tools become rapidly integrated into academic environments, faculty require clear guidance, robust data privacy protections, and comprehensive training to safeguard educational quality and student privacy. AB 2392 addresses these needs directly by requiring joint working group collaboration, vendor risk assessments, and required training on institutional policies and privacy standards before deploying GenAI systems to students, faculty, or staff."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

- 1) The CSU anticipates General Fund costs in the mid hundreds of thousands of dollars for staff and CSU stakeholders to participate in the working group, develop and provide the training required by the bill, and produce the report required upon the execution of a Generative AI system contract for the designated time period. The CSU also anticipates ongoing General Fund costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for staff to review and update the training per academic year, and to maintain records of completed trainings systemwide.
- 2) The UC estimates that this bill would result in one-time costs of \$450,000 to \$600,000. This estimate includes intersegmental stakeholder engagement, convenings, staff coordination, development of recommendations, GenAI procurement standards, training standards/protocols, development and production of mandatory AI training, training completion tracking, annual reviews and updates, and legislative reporting related to systemwide GenAI contracts. The UC also estimates ongoing General Fund costs of approximately \$100,000 each year for workgroup coordination, annual review, vendor-associated content updates, reporting, and mandatory training compliance monitoring. This estimate assumes that the working group would meet in subsequent years.
- 3) The CCC Chancellor's Office estimates one-time General Fund costs of between \$19,000 and \$83,000 to jointly convene and participate in an intersegmental working group to develop standards for responsible GenAI training and procurement, \$8,000 to \$60,000 for each legislative report that is produced anytime a GenAI system is procured for the entire system. Additionally, the Chancellor's Office estimates ongoing General Fund costs \$13,000 to

\$60,000 to review and update training each year, and up to \$55,000 each year to compile and maintain records of completed trainings.

VOTES:

ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 10-0-0

YES: Fong, DeMaio, Boerner, Jeff Gonzalez, Jackson, Irwin, Patel, Bennett, Sharp-Collins, Tangipa

ASM PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION: 15-0-0

YES: Bauer-Kahan, Macedo, Bryan, DeMaio, Hoover, Irwin, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Ortega, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ward, Wicks, Wilson

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta

ABS, ABST OR NV: Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-3

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

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FN: 0004283