

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2436 (Fong) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: tuition and fees: Team USA student athletes.

SUMMARY: Extends indefinitely the current exemption allowing Team USA student athletes training in California to receive resident tuition classification, by removing the existing July 1, 2032, sunset provision. Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Removes the July 1, 2032, sunset date, thereby making permanent the provision granting resident tuition status to qualifying Team USA student athletes.
- 2) Deletes the contingent statutory language that would have replaced the broader Team USA provision with a narrower exemption limited to athletes training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center (USOTC) in Chula Vista, California after 2032.
- 3) Maintains eligibility requirements requiring athletes to:
 - a) Train in California in an elite-level program approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC); and,
 - b) Provide documentation verifying eligibility from the USOPC.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) States the intent of the Legislature that the public institutions of higher education shall apply uniform rules, as set forth in this chapter and not otherwise, in determining whether a student shall be classified as a resident or a nonresident (Education Code (EC) Section 68000).
- 2) Requires each student enrolled or applying for admission to an institution provide the information and evidence of residence as deemed necessary by the governing board or district governing board, as appropriate, to determine his or her classification. An oath or affirmation may be required in connection with taking testimony necessary to ascertain a student's classification. The determination of a student's classification shall be made in accordance with this part and the residence determination date for the semester, quarter, or term for which the student proposes to attend an institution (EC Section 68041).
- 3) Provides a "resident" is a student who has a residence in the state for more than one year immediately preceding the residence determination date (EC Section 68017).
- 4) Provides a "resident classification" means classification as a resident, as specified, at the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), the California Maritime Academy, or a California Community College (CCC) (EC Section 68022).
- 5) Provides "residence determination date" is a date or day established by the governing boards or district governing boards, as appropriate, for each semester, quarter, or term to determine a student's residence (EC Section 68023).

- 6) Authorizes, until July 1, 2032, the USOPC to bestow a Team USA student athlete, who trains in the State in an elite level program approved by USOPC, to resident classification for the purpose of determining tuition and fees (EC Section 68083).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Purpose of the measure.* According to the author, “California is home to world-class Olympic and Paralympic training programs that attract athletes from across the nation. By providing long-term certainty and reducing financial barriers, AB 2436 supports the development of Team USA athletes while strengthening California’s role as a national hub for elite athletic training and higher education. Ensuring access to affordable education allows these athletes to pursue academic success while representing the United States in international competition and contributing to the vibrant campus communities where they study. As the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles nears, AB 2436 sends a message to athletes that they are welcome in California.”

The author states that, “AB 2436 helps reduce financial barriers that can limit access to higher education for student athletes pursuing elite-level training. Without resident tuition eligibility, these students may face significantly higher nonresident tuition costs, which can place college out of reach for those from low-income and working-class backgrounds. By maintaining this pathway, AB 2436 helps ensure that talented athletes are not excluded from higher education opportunities and supports greater access for students from economically disadvantaged communities.”

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has selected Los Angeles (LA) as the Host City of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, returning the Summer Games to the United States for the first time since Atlanta in 1996. Los Angeles will be hosting the Olympics for the third time (1932, 1984, and 2028) and the Paralympics for the first time. For the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games, Long Beach will have the second-largest footprint outside of the downtown Los Angeles hub, which will be home to the Olympic Village and over a dozen sporting events. The private LA 2028 bid committee has vowed to control costs by using existing venues such as the Coliseum and Staples Center, as well as the Rams' stadium currently under construction in Inglewood. As the Summer Olympics are set to take place in Los Angeles, it is highly anticipated that more Team USA student athletes will train in California.

Understanding residency tuition. Existing law establishes that there are resident and non-resident students, and specifies that a “resident” is a student who has residence in the state for more than one year immediately preceding the residence determination date. This means that tuition and fees for resident and nonresident students can vary significantly across California’s public higher education systems.

The average undergraduate tuition and fees at UC campuses are \$15,588 for state residents and \$54,858 for nonresident students.

All students enrolled at a CSU campus pay the same systemwide tuition fee, which will be \$6,838 per academic year in 2026-27 for undergraduate students enrolling in more than six units per term and \$3,962 for undergraduates enrolling in six or fewer units. Nonresident CSU students are assessed an additional \$471 per semester unit in tuition. A student taking 30 semester units would pay \$20,968 in tuition and fees.

At the CCC, resident students pay a base rate of \$46 per unit, meaning a resident student taking 30 units per academic year would pay \$1,380 annually. However, per unit fees for nonresident students at CCC districts differ from various campuses, with some charging \$249 per unit to others charging over \$400 per unit. Meaning a nonresident student taking 30 units per academic year could pay over \$12,000 annually.

How many? According to LA28, sponsors of the measure, existing law allows Team USA student-athletes training in approved elite-level programs to qualify for in-state tuition at California public colleges and universities. However, LA28 states that, “these provisions expire on July 1, 2032. Allowing this provision to sunset would create uncertainty for athletes navigating long-term academic and training pathways.”

Further, LA28 cites recent data that highlights the necessity of the program: during the 2025-26 academic year, 11 UC students and three CSU students utilized this residency classification to advance their education while training.

Arguments in support. According to the UC, “the UC system has a long and distinguished history of participation in the Olympic Games. At the 2024 Paris Olympics alone, 103 UC-affiliated athletes competed across 27 sports, representing 31 nations. Additionally, four UC-affiliated Paralympians participated in the 2024 Paris Paralympics. UC athletes received 11 gold, 14 silver, and 14 bronze medals in the 2024 Olympic Games and one silver and one bronze medal for the 2024 Paralympic Games. Collectively, UC athletes have earned more than 670 Olympic medals since 1920, reflecting over a century of excellence on the world stage. These figures underscore UC’s critical role in developing elite athletes who compete at the highest levels of international competition.”

The UC states that, “AB 2436 recognizes the unique circumstances of these student athletes and ensures they are not financially disadvantaged while pursuing both their academic and athletic goals. Providing in-state tuition eligibility would reduce financial barriers and allow these individuals to continue their education while training and competing at an elite level.”

Further, LA28 states that, “by passing AB 2436, California joins states like New York and Utah in providing a lasting legacy benefit, guaranteeing stability for Team USA athletes preparing for Los Angeles 2028, the French Alps 2030, Brisbane 2032, and beyond.”

Prior legislation. AB 2747 (Nazarian), Chapter 972, Statutes of 2022, in part, authorizes USOPC to bestow a Team USA student athlete, who trains in the state in an elite level program approved by USOPC, to resident classification for the purpose of determining tuition and fees.

AB 1317 (Ducheny), Chapter 438, Statutes of 1997, entitles an amateur student athlete in training at the USOTC in the City of Chula Vista to resident classification for the purpose of determining tuition and fees.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

LA 2028 (Sponsor)
University of California Office of the President

Opposition

None on file.

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