

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2466 (Fong) – As Amended April 23, 2026

Policy Committee: Higher Education Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the use of the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funds allocated directly to consortia to include direct support to students, employers, or both, for work-based learning. The bill also extends by one year the date by which the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) must revise paid work-based learning policies, regulations, and guidance to accommodate the expanded eligibility.

The bill defines work-based learning to include, but not be limited to, apprenticeships, internships, externships, and student-run enterprises to increase employability and employment.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor and absorbable costs to the CCCCCO to update guidance.

No costs to participating colleges. The bill expands the use of funds within an existing Proposition 98 General Fund ongoing appropriation but does not increase eligible recipients or alter the existing allocation formula.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Access to higher paying jobs is increasingly tied to practical experience and technical skills. Integrating paid work experience alongside academic coursework allows students to cultivate their skill set and work experience early on while also earning income to offset their education costs. AB 2466 gives the Strong Workforce Program greater flexibility to increase the number of paid work-based learning experiences available to students, increasing their job opportunities and employment earnings following their education.

2) **Background.** Established in the Budget Act of 2016 and later expanded to include K-12 LEAs in 2018, the SWP provides funding for community college career technical education programs (CTE) with 60% allocated to each community college district (CCD) for projects and students within the region of their district, including direct supports to students, and 40% allocated to regional consortia for distribution for projects focused on the workforce needs of each of the state's eight regions: Far North, Bay Area, Central/Motherlode, South Central Coast, Los Angeles, Orange County, Inland Empire/Desert, and San Diego/Imperial. CCCs

are the only California public higher education institutions tasked with offering vocational education in the Education Code as well as the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. CCCs offer CTE programs to prepare students for professional-level employment opportunities in an array of fields including courses in fire technology, mechatronics, fashion, and welding. According to the CCCCO Management Information Systems Data Mart, in the 2023-24 academic year, the CCCCO awarded 140,314 vocational certificates.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 323 (Fong), Chapter 255, Statutes of 2025, allows SWP funds provided directly to CCDs to be used for direct supports for paid work-based learning opportunities and requires the CCCCO to revise policies, regulations, and guidance accordingly by June 30, 2026.

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