
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2466 (Fong) - Strong Workforce Program: work-based learning opportunities: regional consortia

Version: April 23, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 22, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill expands the uses of Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funds apportioned directly to regional consortia by allowing them to be used to provide direct support to students and employers for paid work-based learning opportunities intended to increase employability and employment.

Fiscal Impact:

- By expanding the use of SWP funds to include paid work-based learning opportunities, this bill could result in additional, unknown Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures to the extent that the regional consortia increase these opportunities. While the bill does not require them to provide apprenticeships, internships, or externships, offering these paid work-based learning opportunities may increase student and employer demand.
- The Chancellor's Office estimates one-time General Fund costs ranging from \$13,000 to \$58,000 to update its policies regarding allowable expenditures under the SWP and provide updated guidance and technical assistance.

Background: Existing law establishes the SWP to expand high-quality career technical education (CTE) and workforce development across K–14, funded through regional consortia and directly to community college districts (CCDs). The law requires community college SWP funds to be used to increase CTE course availability, improve workforce outcomes, and support regional coordination.

Existing law encourages community colleges to develop work-based learning and employer partnerships, but current guidance from the Chancellor's Office limits the use of SWP funds for paid student placements.

Proposed Law: This bill authorizes SWP funds apportioned directly to regional consortia, in addition to funds apportioned directly to CCDs, to be used to provide direct support to students, employers, or both, for paid work-based learning opportunities intended to increase employability and employment. The bill specifies that allowable paid work-based learning opportunities include, but are not limited to, apprenticeships, internships, externships, and student-run enterprises.

This bill extends from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2027, the deadline by which the Chancellor's Office must revise policies, regulations, and guidance necessary to provide

students, employers, or both, with paid work-based learning opportunities under the SWP.

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 Chancellor's Office to revise policies, regulations, and guidance by June 30, 2026.

Staff Comments: The SWP was established as part of 2016 Budget Act and later expanded to include K-12 LEAs in 2018. The program provides funding for community college career technical education programs with 60 percent allocated to community college districts and the remaining 40 percent allocated to regional consortia to focus on the workforce needs of the state's eight regions. Paid work-based learning helps students bridge the gap between classroom training and real-world employment, particularly for students in high-demand middle-skill occupations. This bill builds upon AB 323 (Fong, Chapter 255, Statutes of 2025) which authorized CCDs to use SWP funds for direct paid work-based learning supports. This bill extends that authority to the regional consortia that administers approximately 40 percent of community college SWP funding.

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."

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