
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 467 **Hearing Date:** July 1, 2026
Author: Fong
Version: June 9, 2026
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** No
Consultant: Michelle Nguyen

Subject: Los Angeles Community College District: California Center for Climate Change Education

NOTE: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and *Appropriations*. A “do pass” motion should include referral to the Committee on *Appropriations*.

NOTE: This bill has been amended to replace its contents, and this is the first time the bill is being heard in its current form.

SUMMARY

This bill codifies the existing California Center for Climate Change (Center) at West Los Angeles College in the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), including the Center’s mission and responsibilities.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Community Colleges (CCCs), a postsecondary education system in this state, under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG), and specifies that the CCC system consists of community college districts (CCDs). (Education Code (EC) § 70900)
- 2) Requires that a CCD be under the control of a governing board; requires the governing board of a CCD to establish, maintain, operate, and govern one or more CCCs. (EC § 70902)
- 3) Authorizes the Regents of the University of California (UC) to establish the California-China Climate Institute, which operates in partnership with the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University and other entities and institutions in China and California. (EC § 92687)
- 4) Appropriates \$5 million on a one-time basis to the BOG to allocate to LACCD for the development and initial operations of the Center, and states that it is the mission of the Center to promote climate change education at the CCCs and to establish opportunities for students to engage in hands-on internships and other learning opportunities. (Uncodified Section 61 of Chapter 54, Statutes of 2022)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Establishes the Center at the West Los Angeles College within LACCD.
- 2) States that it is the mission of the Center to promote climate change education at the CCCs and establish opportunities for students to engage in hands-on internships and other learning opportunities.
- 3) Requires the Center to do all of the following:
 - a) Serve as a resource for CCCs on climate change education with the understanding that, at its core, climate change is a global issue of equity and social justice.
 - b) Build a clear climate change pathway that leads to appropriate certificates, degrees, and employment opportunities.
 - c) Enhance partnerships with nonprofit organizations that encourage the development of student internships and work-based learning opportunities.
 - d) Explore and expand internships, preapprenticeships, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities in the equity, environmental justice, and green jobs sectors.
 - e) Partner with local and regional entities to support the workforce training needed in the greening of the energy grid and other industries.
 - f) Develop and sustain an annual urban climate change and sustainability conference.
- 4) Requires, when developing a clear climate change pathway, the Center to consult with relevant faculty and administrative groups of the CCCs, the California State University (CSU), and the UC, including, but not limited to, the Academic Senates of the CCC, the CSU, and the UC, and the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates.
- 5) Specifies that the unique circumstances of the LACCD condition the need for a special statute.
- 6) Makes findings and declarations pertaining to climate change.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “AB 467 establishes the California Center for Climate Change Education at West Los Angeles College in the Los Angeles Community College District. The bill specifies the mission and responsibilities of the center, including commitments to educating students about climate change, exploring environmentally focused career fields, and partnering

with local and regional non-profits to develop student internships and job opportunities. By formalizing the Center's status in state law, California would safeguard the long-term viability of climate education through educational and work-based learning opportunities for students interested in environmental career fields, in addition to establishing an authentic blueprint of climate awareness that can be scaled across the California Community Colleges system."

- 2) **Research at CCCs.** The CCCs are designated to bear the most extensive responsibility for lower-division undergraduate instruction. Its three primary areas of mission include education leading to associate degrees and university transfer, career technical education, and basic skills. As a secondary function, the community colleges may conduct institutional research concerning student learning and retention as is needed to facilitate their educational missions. The Center focuses on workforce training and building pathways to certificates and degrees, which appropriately work within the core strengths of CCCs. Additionally, the Center is charged with exploring and expanding internships, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities in equity, environmental justice, and green job sectors.
- 3) **Why West Los Angeles College?** AB 1913 (Bryan, 2022), which was similar to this bill, would have established the Center, but its contents were eventually adopted into the 2022 Budget Act. At that time, LACCD argued that the West Los Angeles College campus is the only CCC that offers a Climate Change and Environmental Studies Associate of Arts Degree. The degree is designed as a pathway for student transfer into environmental studies programs at four-year universities, or for pursuing environmental-related careers. The LACCD's Board of Trustees adopted the Clean Energy and Sustainability Resolution, which directs the district's staff to develop and implement a sustainability plan for the district to achieve 100% carbon-free energy goals by 2040.

Proponents of the measure argue that changing workforce needs within Los Angeles call for solutions in retraining and upskilling workers and that California's clean energy transition is set to have a large impact on workers in Los Angeles County. The county is one of three counties (Kern, Contra Costa, and Los Angeles) that, combined, account for roughly 50% of all employment in the fossil fuel and ancillary industries in California. As such, worker training programs are needed to ensure that a wide range of workers, including displaced fossil fuel industry workers, have access to the jobs created by clean energy investments.

The 2022 Budget Act included an appropriation of \$5 million in one-time funding to support the creation of the Center on the West Los Angeles College campus. The funding may be used to develop curricula related to climate change education for CCCs, establish opportunities for students to engage in hands-on internships and other learning opportunities, and hire staff to develop the Center. This bill codifies the mission and activities of the Center.

- 4) **Related and Prior Legislation.**

AB 3142 (Jones-Sawyer, 2024) would have codified the existing Center at West Los Angeles College in LACCD and would have created the California Mobile Unit

for Climate Change Education to assist the Center in promoting hands-on learning opportunities throughout the region. AB 3142 was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1913 (Bryan, 2022) would have established the Center for the purpose of promoting climate change education at LACCD and to establish hands-on learning opportunities for CCC students. The contents of AB 1913 were subsequently adopted in the 2022 Budget Act, and AB 1913 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 183 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 54, Statutes of 2022) provided an appropriation of \$5 million in one-time funding to support the creation of the Center on the West Los Angeles College campus.

SUPPORT

Los Angeles Community College District (sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None received

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