
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 467 (Fong) - Los Angeles Community College District: California Center for Climate Change Education

Version: June 9, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 6 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

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

Fiscal Impact: By codifying the Center for Climate Change Education, this bill could lead to General Fund or Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures, potentially in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars each year, for the state to provide ongoing support when the one-time funds that have been appropriated for the center run out.

The costs to the Chancellor's Office to monitor implementation of the center's operations are expected to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

Background: The Master Plan for Higher Education and state statute, differentiate the mission and functions of public institutions of higher education. The University of California (UC) is designated as the primary state-supported academic agency for research. Accordingly, the Legislature creates and funds a number of research initiatives at UC to address statewide issues. 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.

Proposed Law: This bill establishes the California Center for Climate Change Education in the LACCD to be located at West Los Angeles College. It provides that it is the mission of the center to promote climate change education at the community colleges and establish opportunities for students to engage in hands-on internships and other learning opportunities.

This bill requires the center to do the following:

- 1) Serve as a resource for community colleges on climate change education with the understanding that at its core, climate change is a global issue of equity and social justice.
- 2) Build a clear climate change pathway that leads to appropriate certificates, degrees, and employment opportunities.

- 3) Enhance partnerships with nonprofit organizations that encourage the development of student internships and work based learning opportunities.
- 4) Explore and expand internships, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and other work based learning opportunities in equity, environmental justice, and green jobs sectors.
- 5) Partner with local and regional entities to support the workforce training needed in the greening of the energy grid and other industries.
- 6) Develop and sustain annual urban climate change and sustainability conference.

This bill requires, in the development of a clear climate change pathway, the center to consult with relevant faculty and administrative groups of the CCCs, the California State University, and the University of California, including, but not limited to, the Academic Senates of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California and the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates.

This bill specifies that the unique circumstances of the LACCD condition the need for a special statute.

Related 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) was nearly identical to this bill and would have established the California Center for Climate Change Education. The bill was held on the Suspense File in this committee.

Staff Comments: 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.

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