Office of Senate Floor Analyses
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 640
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Amended: 10/6/25
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/30/25
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0, 5/28/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cervantes, Limón, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 80-0, 9/9/25 - See last page for vote

**SUBJECT:** Public postsecondary education: admission, transfer, and enrollment

**SOURCE:** Author

**DIGEST:** This bill establishes the California State University (CSU) direct admission program between participating CSU campuses and local educational agencies (LEAs), and it further requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) to promote the CSU dual admission transfer program.

*Assembly Amendments* of 9/2/25 remove the requirement to create transfer model curricula (TMC) and related workgroup. Amendments also require, rather than authorize, LEAs meeting certain conditions to participate in the program and clarify student eligibility.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

1) Establishes the CSU under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, the University of California (UC), under the administration of the Regents of the UC, the CCC, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, and independent institutions of higher education as four segments of postsecondary education in the state. (Education Code (EC) § 66010, § 70900, § 66600, and California Constitution, Article IX, Section 9)

2) Requires, until the 2026–27 academic year, the trustees to offer for first-time freshman applicants meeting certain criteria a dual admissions program, and authorizes eligible first-time freshman applicants to enter into a dual admissions agreement with the CSU that guarantees the student's admission to a specific campus of the segment selected by the student at the time of the agreement if the student completes transfer requirements, which may include completion of an associate degree for transfer (ADT) or another established course of study for transfer within two academic years at a CCC. (EC § 66744.1)

3) Establishes the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act, which, in part, requires, commencing with the fall term of the 2011-12 academic year, a student that receives an ADT to be deemed eligible for transfer into a CSU baccalaureate degree when the student meets specified requirements. Requires a granting of this degree when a student:

   a) Completes 60 semester or 90 quarter units eligible for transfer to the CSU, and that includes the CSU General Education Breadth program for the general education transfer curricula, and a minimum of 18 semester or 27 quarter units in a major area of emphasis as determined by the district; and,

   b) Obtains a minimum grade point average of 2.0. (EC § 66745, et seq.)

4) Establishes, until July 1, 2027, the ADT Intersegmental Implementation Committee for specified purposes, including to serve as the primary entity charged with the oversight of the ADT. (EC § 66749.8)

This bill:

1) Establishes the CSU Direct Admission program and requires the CSU Chancellor to designate one or more CSU campuses as university participants in the program.

2) States the Legislature's intent that the CSU Chancellor designate each CSU campus with available enrollment capacity to be a university participant.

3) Requires that the reporting available on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform be used to provide the data required to determine program eligibility upon the implementation of transcript-information pupil accounts for pupils in grades 9 to 12, on the platform.

4) Requires that LEAs that have implemented a transcript-informed pupil accounts for pupils in grades 9 through 12 inclusive, to participate in the program.

5) Designates that all grade 12 pupils who are enrolled in a participating LEA as CSU applicants.

6) Requires that program eligibility include the coursework completed by the end of grade 11 and on-track completion of A-G courses with a qualifying A-G CSU grade point average.

7) Requires, by the opening of the fall semester priority application filing period of each year, the California College Guidance Initiative, on behalf of the CSU, to transmit a letter to enrolled pupils enrolled in a participating LEA who satisfies eligibility requirements that notifies them of their direct admission. The bill requires that the letter describe the enrollment procedures the pupil needs to complete to be successfully enrolled.

8) Specifies that upon accepting an offer of admission to one of the university participants, a pupil is required to complete the necessary procedures for enrollment.

9) Modifies provisions related to the CSU dual admission transfer pathways program for first-time freshman applicants by:

    a) Extending the sunset date from the 2025-26 academic year to 2035-36 academic year.

b) Expands the period of time from two to three years for which a student is to complete an ADT or other established course of study for transfer to be granted guaranteed admission.

c) Requires the CCC to promote the dual admission program to new students, as specified.

10) Defines various terms for the purposes of the bill including university participant to mean a campus of the CSU that is designated to participate in the CSU Direct Admission Program.

**Comments**

*Need for this bill.* According to the author, "It should be as easy and seamless to go from 12th grade to college as it is to go from 10th grade to 11th grade. Tens of thousands of California students are fully qualified to go to CSU, but don't jump the hurdles of the admissions process. At the same time, nearly half of CSU's campuses have substantial available enrollment capacity and need more students to sustain their high quality academic programs. High schools and community colleges already have all the transcript information they need in order to validate that a graduating student is CSU-admissible. SB 640 seals the cracks through which too many students fall and gets a coveted letter of admission to thousands of qualified students.

"Additionally, SB 640 will enhance California's transfer pathways by requiring the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to develop at least five Associate Degrees for Transfer in high-opportunity career fields. These pathways will ensure community college graduates transition smoothly to four-year institutions and secure well-paying jobs in innovative industries that provide for social mobility."

*Streamlining pathways for students.* This bill attempts to streamline CSU admission for high school students by requiring a LEAs that have implemented transcript-informed student accounts on the state sponsored platform (CaliforniaColleges.edu) to participate in the direct admission program. Eligibility is to be based on the coursework completed by the end of grade 11 and on-track completion of A-G courses with a qualifying A-G CSU grade point average. CaliforniaColleges.edu will identify students who meet the CSU admission requirements once their transcript-informed accounts are in place. The California College Guidance Initiative, on behalf of the CSU, is required to transmit a letter

with the Chancellor's signature to an eligible student that they have been directly admitted into a participating CSU. Presumably, meeting the requirements for CSU admission as outlined in the bill could qualify students for admission into other CSU campus locations that are not participating in the direct admission program.

*Dual Admissions.* This bill additionally aims to extend and promote an existing CCC to CSU transfer program. Current law establishes the Dual Admissions Pathway at CSU for first-time freshman applicants starting in the 2023-24 through the 2025-26 academic year. The dual admission agreement guarantees that a student will 1) be admitted to their chosen campus if they complete transfer requirements, which may include completion of an ADT or another established course of study for transfer within two academic years at a CCC, and 2) have access to library, counseling, and other services from the CSU campus nearest to their primary residence. It further requires CSU to report by April 1, 2026, on the program, including college participants, a description of services, and information on program applicants and student outcomes. This bill extends the dual admissions program until the 2035-36 academic year and expands eligibility to students who have completed an ADT or another established course of study for transfer within three rather than two years. The bill additionally requires that the CCCs promote the CSU dual admissions program to new students each fall term.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following impact:

- Ongoing General Fund costs likely in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for the CSU, system wide, to provide mailers and notify students of admittance. To the extent the bill results in increased enrollments from the Direct Admissions Program costs would be lower.

- Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs, up to $60,000, for the CCCs, collectively statewide, to provide specified information regarding dual admission programs to new students via orientation, campus websites, and within counseling offices and transfer centers.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 9/9/25)

California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy
California State University Employees Union
Children Now
EdTrust-West

Fresno Unified School District
Rancho Santiago Community College District
1 Individual

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 9/9/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 80-0, 9/9/25
AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105
7/15/26 13:49:29

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