

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 845 (Pérez) – As Amended June 23, 2026

Policy Committee:	Education	Vote:	8 - 0
	Labor and Employment		7 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes a high school pupil enrolled in a community college to participate in work-based learning activities when directly connected to the career technical education (CTE) or academic objectives of the course. The bill also expands authority for a school district to provide instruction through work-based learning activities to charter schools, county offices of education and the state special schools and establishes a framework for youth apprenticeship programs overseen by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS).

Specifically, the bill defines work-based learning as sustained interactions with industry or community professionals in real or simulated workplace settings that foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the required tasks of a given career field and aligned to curriculum and instruction. The bill also authorizes a local educational agency (LEA), including a regional occupation center or program (ROCP) or community college receiving CTE funds to use those funds towards work-based learning activities, including youth apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time costs of \$450,000 and \$400,000 ongoing annually (CA Apprenticeship Council Training Fund) for DAS to expand establish and oversee the youth apprenticeship program.
- 2) Minor Proposition 98 General Fund costs to K-12 LEAs and California Community Colleges (CCCs), collectively statewide, to participate in the expanded youth apprenticeship and CTE framework. The bill authorizes the use of various existing CTE funding pathways to support its implementation, such as Golden State Pathways, CTE Incentive Grant, Agriculture CTE funding, and Partnership Academies.

COMMENTS:

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

SB 845 expands access to career-connected learning across the state by strengthening hands-on learning opportunities, removing barriers to industry participation, and connecting students with high-demand careers – all efforts that are guided by the Career Education Master Plan and the recommendations of the California Youth Apprenticeship Committee (CYAC). Doing so will provide a strong foundation for

preparing students for career success, which is essential for building a more inclusive economy.

- 2) **Background. CTE.** CTE programs allow high school students, and in some cases middle school students, to gain vocational experience not typically provided in the traditional academic setting. Courses may be offered on campus at their regular school site or off-campus, on a community college campus, or at a regional center including students from multiple districts. While not all CTE programs focus purely on a specific vocation and may occur largely in the classroom setting, many programs do present the opportunity for work-based learning in a real or simulated work environment. However, preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for youth in CTE programs are not currently an authorized use of CTE funding nor do they satisfy the high school graduation requirement for taking a course in CTE.

This bill authorizes a student enrolled in a CTE program, either through the student's K-12 school or while dually enrolled at a community college, to participate in work-based learning activities, including preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs approved by the DAS, and have that course time count towards the CTE graduation requirement.

This bill has no opposition on file and, according to the California Workforce Association, would play a crucial role in building a cohesive youth apprenticeship framework in line with Governor Newsom's 2023 executive order directing state leaders to develop a Master Plan on Career Education.

Related Legislation. AB 821 (Gipson), Chapter 622, Statutes of 2025, makes permanent the authorization for a high school student to use a course in CTE to satisfy a high school graduation course requirement that may also be fulfilled by a course in visual and performing arts or world languages.

AB 805 (Fong), of current legislative session, establishes the Career Apprenticeship Bridge program, administered by the DAS, and authorizes DAS to work with the CDE and the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges in order to, among other things, identify resources to support youth apprenticeships. AB 805 is pending hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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