

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SCR 82 (Niello) – As Amended June 11, 2026

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	10 - 0
	Privacy and Consumer Protection		15 - 0

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

This measure encourages the President of the University of California (UC), the Chancellor of the California State University (CSU), and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO) to create a workgroup to review artificial intelligence (AI) use in higher education.

Specifically, the measure prescribes that the workgroup includes faculty, staff, and administrators, and that workgroup members discuss strategies and best practices for AI use in public higher education, including but not limited to ethical use for assignments with reasonable safeguards to protect student privacy and mitigate plagiarism. The measure also encourages the workgroup to create a public report regarding the agreed upon strategies and best practices within one year of the workgroup's formation and submit the report to the Legislature.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Cost pressures of an unknown, potentially significant amount, possibly in the low-to-mid hundreds of thousands of dollars (General Fund and Proposition 98 General Fund), for the public higher education segments collectively to form the workgroup encouraged by this measure and write the required report.

Regardless of cost, consistent with committee rules and practice, the bill is a candidate for the suspense file as its primary purpose is to create a workgroup and a report.

COMMENTS:

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

While each institution is working on the issue on their own, it is imperative they be communicating as a group due to California's connected system. SCR 82 encourages dialogue amongst the CA higher education systems to help promote the best approaches in teaching, as well as regulations around the allowable usage AI. This is important not only for the student, but also faculty who are in uncharted waters. Convening a workgroup is in the best interest of all parties involved to work towards clear guidelines for usage.

2) **Background.** Each of California's public higher education segments—CSU, UC, and CCC—have established AI-related working groups and initiatives. Most notably, the CSU, February 2025, announced its AI-Empowered Initiative to “leverage the power of artificial

intelligence to create an AI-empowered higher education system that could surpass any existing model in both scale and impact.” However, significant concerns arose, such as those raised by the California State Student Association (CSS), regarding rushed and inconsistent implementation, a lack of adequate training and awareness, and privacy, transparency, sustainability, and governance. Additionally, currently there exists no inter-segmental workgroup related to the use of AI in higher education.

According to the Associated Students of San Francisco State University, writing in support of this measure:

As students, we believe SCR82 is necessary because it will help intersegmental leaders gain a better understanding about how the use of artificial intelligence will be utilized and implemented into higher education, with a focus on AI literacy, ethics, and best practice usage.

The use of AI has impacted students in the CSU and has raised a variety of questions and concerns such as environmental responsibility, academic integrity, transparency and critical thinking skills. In light of the CSU’s \$17 million partnership with Open AI – an immense investment in AI during a time of faculty layoffs and financial strain makes the role of this workforce even more essential.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 2392 (Fong), of the current legislative session, requires the CCC and CSU, and requests the UC, to convene a joint working group to develop responsible GenAI training and procurement standards and present its recommendations, by January 1, 2028, to the respective public higher education system leaders. AB 2392 is pending hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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