Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Darshana R. Patel, Chair
AB 1636 (Solache) – As Amended April 9, 2026

[Note: This bill is double referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and was heard by that Committee as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Cerritos Community College District: data sharing

SUMMARY: Authorizes the Cerritos Community College District to enter into a data sharing agreement with participating local education agencies (LEAs), in order to more seamlessly exchange the personally identifiable student information needed for enrollment in Cerritos Community College. Specifically, **this bill**:

1) Defines the following:

   a) "Chancellor's office" to mean the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor's Office;

   b) "District" to mean the Cerritos Community College District; and,

   c) "Partnering LEA" to mean a school district or county office of education (COE) that meets both the following requirements:

      i) Maintians a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) or California College Promise partnership with the District to provide assistance to K-12 students and their families in applying and attending college; and,

      ii) Is geographically located within the service area of District.

2) Requires the Chancellor's office to, on or before September 1, 2027, in collaboration with the District, develop a method that would enable the District to compile and transmit personally identifiable student information to the Chancellor's office for the limited and express purpose of creating a community college student record for course enrollment at the CCC.

   a) Specifies the method shall require the district to compile and transmit personally identifiable student information to the chancellor's office in a manner that complies with all applicable state and federal privacy laws;

   b) Authorizes the method to use existing system capabilities used to create a community college student record; and

   c) Requires the Chancellor's office to identify the personally identifiable student information that is required to create a community college student record for course enrollment at the CCC.

3) Authorizes, beginning September 30, 2027, the governing board of the District to enter into a data sharing agreement with the governing board of an LEA with which it has an existing partnership under the CCAP Pathway or California College Promise program for the limited

and express purpose of creating a community college student record for course enrollment at the CCC.

a) Specifies personally identifiable student information shall be exchanged between the LEA and District according to the method developed by the Chancellor's office;

b) Requires the LEA obtain the express written consent of the student or, if the student is under 18, the student's parent or guardian, to exchange personally identifiable student information with the District; and

c) Requires the personally identifiable student data be limited to what is identified by the Chancellor's office as required for CCC enrollment, and be shared in a manner compliant with all applicable state and federal privacy laws.

4) Requires the District to compile and transmit received personally identifiable student information in the manner developed by the Chancellor's office to create a community college student record.

5) Requires the District, in collaboration with the Chancellor's office, to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2031 that details the effectiveness of this section in providing seamless enrollment of participating LEA students in courses offered by the District.

6) Authorizes this statute to remain in effect only until January 1, 2032, and as of that date repeals it.

EXISTING LAW:

1) Establishes the CCC under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The CCC shall be comprised of community college districts (Education Code (EC) 70900).

2) Authorizes the Board of Governors of the CCC to adopt regulations that permit the board of trustees of each CCC district to allow for the electronic submission of student applications, student residency determination forms, and any other form. The electronic form will require the applicants and the students to be informed of the relative security of the information they are electronically submitting (EC 70901.1).

3) Creates for each CCC district a board of trustees, known as the governing board, and authorizes the governing board to establish, maintain, operate, and govern each CCC within their district in accordance with state and federal law, as specified. The governing board may initiate and carry on any program, activity, or may otherwise act in any manner that is not in conflict or inconsistent with any law and that is not in conflict with the purpose of a CCC district, as specified. (EC 70902).

4) Establishes the Individual Privacy Act, which declares that the right to privacy is a personal and fundamental right protected by Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of California and by the United States Constitution and that all individuals have a right of privacy in information pertaining to them. (Civil Code 1798)

5) Protects the privacy of student education records in federal law with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The law applies to all schools (elementary, secondary, and postsecondary) that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents and the student (depending on the age) certain rights with respect to the disclosure of the pupil's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level (20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99).

6) Establishes the California State University (CSU) Direct Admission Program between CSU and LEAs for the purpose of providing direct admission letters to students who meet the admission requirements of the CSU. After establishing a transcript-informed pupil account on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform, a student will be informed as to whether they meet the admission requirements at participating CSU campuses and shall be provided a letter describing the enrollment procedures the pupil needs to complete to successfully enroll at the designated CSU campus (EC 66209).

7) Authorizes a student to undertake courses at a California Community College (CCC) if the governing board of a school district, upon recommendation of the principal of the student's high school and with parental consent, determines a student would benefit from advanced or vocational coursework. The student may attend the CCC during any session or term as a special part-time or full-time student and take one or more courses of instruction offered at the CCC. Provides methods for parents to petition for students to attend community college courses and methods for appeals in case of a denial. Includes criteria for allocating attendance and funding for high school students who attend courses at the community college. (EC 48800)

8) Requires community college districts receiving funds for the California College Promise to partner with LEAs to establish an Early Commitment to College Program. Requires the partnership, among other provisions, accomplish the following:

    a) Provide K–12 students and families assistance that includes, but is not limited to, learning about college opportunities, visiting campuses, taking and completing college preparatory courses, and applying for college and financial aid;

    b) Support and improve high school student preparation for college and reduce postsecondary remediation through practices that may include, but shall not be limited to, small learning communities, concurrent enrollment, and other evidence-based practices;

    c) Use evidence-based assessment and placement practices at the community college that comply with Section 78213 and include multiple measures of student performance, which shall include, among other measures, overall grade point averages, including grades in high school courses, and using evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for underprepared students; and

    d) Clarify the academic path for students, help students enter a pathway, help students stay on an academic path, and ensure that students are learning. (EC 76396.2)

9) Authorizes the governing board of a CCC district to enter into a CCAP partnership with the governing board of a school district, COE or the governing body of a charter school for the purpose of offering or expanding dual enrollment opportunities for students who may not

already be college bound or who are underrepresented in higher education, with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for career technical education or preparation for transfer, improving high school graduation rates, or helping high school students achieve college and career readiness. (EC 76004)

10) Requires that the CCAP partnership agreement be approved by the respective governing boards of the CCC district and the school district or governing body of the charter school. Requires the governing boards or body to:

    a) Consult with and consider the input of the appropriate local workforce development board in order to determine to what extent the career technical education pathways are aligned with regional and statewide employment needs; and,

    b) Present, take comments from the public on, and approve or disapprove of the CCAP partnership agreement at an open public meeting of the governing board of the district or governing body of the charter school. (EC 76004)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, "More than half of California's high school graduates begin at a community college, yet too many students, especially first-general students, face unnecessary barriers during the transition from high school to college. AB 1636 streamlines that transition by allowing Cerritos College, in partnership with local K-12 districts, to create ready-to-enroll student records using existing verified data. The bill does not mandate enrollment or replace existing systems; it simply removes friction and technical hurdles that can discourage students from completing the process."

What this bill would do. The proposed legislation establishes a pilot program for the Cerritos Community College District (CCD) to streamline the transition from high school to community college. By September 2027, the Chancellor's office and the Cerritos CCD District are required to develop a secure method for transferring student data from participating K-12 schools, which must be in the Cerritos CCD and have an existing partnership through CCAP or the California College Promise programs. These schools would then be able to share personally identifiable student information directly with the college for the specific and limited purpose of creating college enrollment records, aiming to provide a "seamless" registration process for students.

The Cerritos Community College District. Established in 1955, the CCD is a single community college district located within the county of Los Angeles that serves the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and South Gate, as well as portions of Bell Gardens, East Compton, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Whittier.

According to data from the CCC Chancellor's Office, in 2024-25 Cerritos CCD enrolled 35,577 students, including 17,015 full-time students and 3,417 high school students enrolled in a CCAP dual enrollment program. The District received $246 million in state, federal, and local revenues, or a total of $14,458 per full-time student.

In contrast to the rest of the CCC system, Cerritos CCD has seen increased enrollment in recent years. Between the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years, the District's enrollment grew by 7%. This is more than the increase in enrollment funding provided in the state budget for enrollment growth across the entire CCC system.

Four school districts meet requirements to participate in the proposed data sharing agreement. This bill stipulates that for an LEA to participate in the data sharing agreement the LEA must also have a CCAP agreement or a College Promise partnership with the Cerritos CCD and be located within geographical service area of the district. The following list, provided by the author's office, includes the school districts and individual high schools within the Cerritos CCD service area.

1) ABC Unified School District (USD): Artesia High School, Cerritos High School, Gahr High School, Whitney High School, and Tracy High School (continuation high school);

2) Bellflower USD: Bellflower High School, Mayfair High School, Somerset High School (continuation high school), and Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy (alternative K-12 school of choice);

3) Downey USD: Downey High School, Warren High School, and Columbus High School (continuation high school); and

4) Norwalk-La Mirada USD: La Mirada High School, Norwalk High School, and El Camino HS (continuation high school).

The current application process can typically be completed in less than one hour. According to a report by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), it takes an average applicant 45 minutes to complete a CCCApply application (Chavez & Velez, 2021). They also note the rate of abandonment is 14%.

The current CCC application process requires prospective students to complete two steps:

1) Create a student profile on CCCApply.com. This process, estimated to take four minutes, includes providing personally identifying information such as name, email address, home address, phone number, and Social Security number or taxpayer identification number. Completing this step creates a student profile within CCCApply.com for the student.

2) Provide up to 203 data points, not all of which are required for every student. These data points, each of which are required by state or federal law, are used to ascertain the student's overall education status, resident status, financial aid eligibility, required basic needs services, and/or the type of program the student is applying to attend. The questions also help place the student in appropriate math and English classes based on their intended major. Completing this process generates a student record by the Chancellor's Office, which is transmitted to the colleges the student wishes to attend. The student is then able to enroll in coursework.

Following completion, generating a student record can take 24 to 48 hours, depending on the number of applications being concurrently processed by the Chancellor's Office.

Some questions in CCCApply may be confusing to high school applicants. The CCCApply process is designed for use by all prospective applicants. This includes current high school students that are planning to continue their education in community college, and adults that are entering community college after taking time away from school. Thus, some of the questions asked on CCCApply may not be directly applicable to current high schools, which could create confusion.

According to the Cerritos CCD, there are three types of information required by CCCApply that present challenges for prospective high school applicants:

- Identify verification: applicants that do not have access to a state-issued ID, such as a driver's license, may be required to present documents in person at the District office.

- Information relevant to adult applicants: some questions on CCCApply are aimed at adult applicants that re-entering the education system, such as "when did you graduate high school?" According to the District, these questions are confusing for current high school applicants.

- Information related to parent identity: this information can be difficult for some students to provide.

This bill proposes the Chancellor's office and Cerritos CCD create an alternative application method. However, it is unclear whether the alternative will be able to exclude questions in this category, or if they are required to create a CCC student ID.

The K-12 student record does not include all the information required by CCCApply. Under this bill, information from a high school student record would be seamlessly transmitted to create a community college student record. Conceptually, this would work if the high school record contained the information required by the Chancellor's Office to create the student record. However, according to the Chancellor's Office, the high school record is missing key data elements that only a student would be able to provide. Therefore, this measure is unlikely to relieve a student from needing to input certain information when applying to community college.

This bill does not address how the data will be used by the Chancellor's office to create a student record. If the application through CCCApply is the only method by which a student record can be generated, then it is possible this measure will result in the manual entry of all the students' personal identifiable data by an analyst at the Chancellor's Office. This could result not only in human data entry errors, but also in the exposure of sensitive information.

Alternative strategies to increase community college enrollment. In 2024, the Cerritos CCD began a pilot program with Bellflower High School designed to assist current high school seniors with the college application process. According to information provided by the author,

> [This pilot] integrated every step of the Cerritos Complete onboarding sequence into the high school day. By embedding the college onboarding process into senior year classes, Cerritos College recorded in the first year of implementation a 46% college admission rate increase, a 29% financial aid completion rate increase, and a 125% college enrollment rate increase.

Given the remarkable success of this pilot program, the Cerritos CCD may wish to focus their efforts on expanding these initiatives rather than developing a new, unproven application process.

Arguments in support. According to Bellflower Unified School District, "Every year, thousands of high school graduates plan to pursue higher education but never enroll in college. This gap typically does not stem from a lack of ambition. Instead, students encounter administrative complexities, unclear processes, and limited familiarity with higher education systems. These barriers are significant and often overlooked.

AB 1636 directly addresses this challenge. The pilot streamlines the transition from high school to community college by automatically providing graduating students with a "ready-to-enroll" Cerritos College student identification number. Students retain full choice about whether to enroll, and existing CCCApply processes remain in place. What changes is the removal of procedural friction that disproportionately affects first-generation students, working students, and residents of underserved communities.

The result: a clearer pathway from high school completion to workforce training and economic mobility. By reducing administrative barriers at a critical moment, this pilot strengthens access to postsecondary education when students need it most."

Recommended Committee Amendments. Staff recommends the bill be amended as follows:

1) Require the Chancellor's office to include methods to protect data privacy when developing the method to compile and transmit personally identifiable student information.

2) Require the Chancellor's office to, in collaboration with the California Department of Education, develop a consent form that includes all relevant information regarding the pilot, what it is for, how it differs from CCCApply, how student data will be handled at all stages of the process, including acquisition, transmission, and storage.

3) Include charter schools in the definition of LEA.

Related legislation. AB 1871 (Fong) of this Session would remove a requirement for a recommendation by the principal for a student to participate in a CCAP partnership, requires CCAP partnership agreement protocols to authorize a student to complete one application for the duration of the student's attendance at a community college as a special part-time student, and updates required data collection

AB 731 (Fong) of the 2025-26 Session would have made various changes to the CCAP program, including the authorization of a single application for student participation, permitting the use of an online platform, and modifying CCAP reporting requirements to include additional outcome measures. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1122 (Bryan) of the 2025-26 Session would have required, by the 2029-30 academic year, every LEA that serves high school students to be required to offer a specified dual enrollment program in partnership with a community college district. This bill was held in the Assembly Education Committee.

AB 359 (Holden) of the 2023-24 Session would have amended the dual enrollment program, CCAP partnerships to align with best practices from other dual enrollment programs and to streamline access to dual enrollment for K-12 students throughout the state. This bill was vetoed by the Governor, with the following message:

> While I support the author's goal of expanding access and removing barriers to dual enrollment opportunities, this bill creates significant General Fund costs that are not reflected in the state's current fiscal plan.

AB 368 (Holden), Chapter 521, Statutes of 2023, requires community colleges who participate in CCAP partnerships to provide priority registration for participating high school students. Adds clarity to existing sections of the CCAP partnerships by providing a definition for "underrepresented in higher education" and that courses offered in CCAP partnerships may be provided to students on either a high school campus or a community college campus.

AB 102 (Holden), Chapter 902, Statutes of 2022, authorizes COEs to enter into CCAP partnerships with the governing board of CCC districts, and removes the sunset date for the CCAP partnerships.

AB 181 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 52, Statutes of 2022, the Budget Act of 2023 included funding for two programs to support dual enrollment: $500 million for the Golden State Pathways Program, and $200 million for the Dual Enrollment Funding Opportunity Program, a competitive grant program aimed at increasing programs that provide high school students with access to college level courses.

AB 30 (Holden), Chapter 510, Statutes of 2019, streamlines the process for developing CCAPs, in part, by: changing the conditions of how CCAP partnership agreements may be adopted, authorizing high school pupils to complete only one community college application for the duration of their attendance, as specified, and, extending the sunset of the CCAP partnership from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2027.

AB 1809 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 33, Statutes of 2018, authorizes charter schools to enter into a CCAP with the governing board of a CCC district.

AB 19 (Santiago), Chapter 735, Statutes of 2017, establishes, under the administration of the CCC Chancellor, the California College Promise.

AB 2364 (Holden), Chapter 299, Statutes of 2016, requires a community college district to exempt all special part-time students, as specified, from nonresident fees and allows these students to be reported as resident FTES to receive associated state apportionments.

AB 288 (Holden), Chapter 618, Statutes of 2015, authorizes the governing board of a CCC district to enter into a CCAP partnership with the governing board of a school district in its immediate service area, with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to CCC in order to offer or expand dual enrollment opportunities for students who may not be college bound or who are underrepresented in higher education; and, outlines the conditions that must be met prior to the adoption of the CCAP agreement. Requires, on or before January 1, 2021, the CCC Chancellor to report to the Legislature, an evaluation of the CCAP partnerships, an

assessment of trends in the growth of special admits system-wide and by campus, and, based upon the data collected recommendations for program improvements.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

ABC Unified School District
Bellflower Unified School District
Cerritos College
City of Norwalk
Downey Unified School District
Norwalk - LA Mirada Unified School District
Western Association for College Admission Counseling

Opposition

None on file

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