

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

AB 1763 (Chu) – As Amended April 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Pupil instruction: college and career preparedness information

SUMMARY: Requires the governing boards of school districts and charter schools to ensure that students receive information on college and career preparedness at least once in grades 9-12. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the governing boards of school districts and charter schools to ensure that pupils receive information on college and career preparedness at least once in grades 9-12, beginning with the 2020-21 school year.
- 2) Specifies that the manner in which information on college and career preparedness is provided is at the discretion of the governing board or body of a school district or charter school, and may include school counseling services, existing courses, or existing programs.
- 3) Requires information on college and career preparedness to include the following components:
 - a. An overview of the types of higher education available and general application processes.
 - b. Information on state, federal, and private financial assistance programs that may offset the costs associated with postsecondary education at public and private institutions of higher education, including, but not limited to, trade schools, technical schools, and vocational schools.
 - c. Information on college and career options, including career and technical education opportunities, which may be provided in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, career assessments, Career Day events, and meetings with career counselors or internship representatives.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to administer the California Career Pathways Trust as a competitive grant program, for the purpose of establishing or expanding career pathway programs in grades 9-14 and preparing students for high-skill, high wage jobs in emerging and growing industry sectors (EC 53011).
- 2) Establishes the 21st Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens program, for the purpose of supporting college and career readiness and providing after school enrichment, academic support, and safe alternatives for high school students after school hours (EC 8421).
- 3) Requires a school to include in its School Accountability Report Card, the availability of qualified personnel to provide counseling and other pupil support services, including the ratio of academic counselors per pupil (EC 33126).

- 4) Establishes the California Career Resource Network as a program within CDE, to provide all persons in California with career development information and resources to help them reach their career goals, and to distribute career information, resources, and training materials to middle and high school counselors, educators, and administrators for the purpose of guiding student career development (EC 53086).
- 5) Authorizes the governing board of a school district to provide a comprehensive educational counseling program for all pupils enrolled in the district (EC 49600).
- 6) Requires educational counseling to include academic counseling, in which pupils receive counseling on the following (EC 49600):
 - a. Development and implementation, with parental involvement, of the pupil's immediate and long-range educational plans.
 - b. Completion of the required curriculum in accordance with the pupil's needs, abilities, interests, and aptitudes.
 - c. Academic planning for access and success in higher education programs, including advisement on courses needed for admission to public colleges and universities, standardized tests, and financial aid.
 - d. Career and vocational counseling, in which pupils are assisted in doing the following:
 - i. Planning for the future, including identifying personal interests, skills, and abilities, career planning, course selection, and career transition.
 - ii. Becoming aware of personal preferences and interests that influence educational and occupational exploration, career choice, and career success.
 - iii. Understanding the relationship between academic achievement and career success, and the importance of maximizing career options.
 - iv. Understanding the value of participating in career technical education.
 - v. Understanding the variety of four-year colleges and universities and community college vocational and technical preparation programs, as well as admission criteria and enrollment procedures.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill has been keyed a state-mandated local program by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. The author's office states: "Currently, schools offer various opportunities to obtain valuable information on higher education, financial aid, and career technical education. Students can participate in programs, classes, or meet with their school counselors to obtain information on college and career pathways. In addition, higher education and career technical trainings provide opportunities in the workforce and higher paid jobs for individuals. However, one of the biggest hurdles in pursuing higher education is the cost, and this is especially true for first-generation college students. While there are myriad financial assistance programs for

students to attend college or trade schools, not all students are aware of those opportunities. The Campaign for College Opportunity has done extensive research on access to higher education in their series of reports titled *The State of Higher Education in California*. While the reports looked at various ethnic/racial groups and barriers those groups face, one of the recommendations that appeared on all those reports was the need to provide more information to students in middle and high schools.”

College and career readiness is a state priority. The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) asserts that in many states, curricular standards often do not reflect the knowledge or skills needed for success after high school, whether students pursue further education or jobs. According to DOE, four out of every ten new college students take remedial courses, and “many employers comment on the inadequate preparation of high school graduates.” The Public Policy Institute of California states that college preparation during high school has a large impact on the likelihood that a student will graduate and the duration of time that it takes a student to finish his or her degree.

With the implementation of Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), California now requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to demonstrate, among other priorities, how they are ensuring that all students are being prepared to be college and career ready. In addition, in recent years the state has placed particular focus on preparing high school students for high paying careers through initiatives that support career technical education (CTE), which, according to CDE, is a program of study that involves a multiyear sequence of courses that integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge, to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers.” For example:

- 1) In 2015, Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) Tom Torlakson established the California Career Readiness Initiative, which is composed of 21 key objectives to support, sustain, and strengthen CTE.
- 2) In 2014, CDE invited applications for the state’s \$250 million Career Pathway Trust Grants, intended to create programs and partnerships linking “rigorous academic standards to career pathways in high-need and high-growth sectors of the economy.”

The College and Career Readiness Index displayed on each LEA’s dashboard includes data on the number of students completing a CTE pathway. CDE notes that over 90% of districts report that CTE is now embedded into their LCAP.

California lags in providing pupils access to school counselors. According to the CDE, 29 percent of California school districts have no counseling programs at all. When counseling programs exist, counselors are often asked to add administrative duties such as testing, supervising, and class scheduling. The ratio of students per counselor in this state averages 945 to 1, compared to the national average of 477 to 1, ranking California last in the nation. Clearly, California schools lack sufficient numbers of trained personnel to meet the social, emotional needs of over six million pupils.

Related legislation. AB 2015 (Reyes) of this Session, which is pending before this Committee, requires the governing board of a school district or the governing body of a charter school that offers an economics course that is limited to grade 12 to include, as part of that course,

instruction on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act Application.

AB 2471 (Thurmond) of this Session requires the transfer of funds from the *Youth, Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account* established through the passage of the *Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act* to the California Department of Education (CDE) to establish a grant program which would allow schools to provide in-school support services to pupils. This bill is pending before this committee.

AB 1743 (O'Donnell) of this Session extends funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) Program at \$500 million per year and establishes funding of \$12 million per year for regional technical assistance.

Previous legislation. AB 104 (Education Omnibus Trailer Bill), Chapter 13, Statutes of 2015 established the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program (CTEIG), a competitive grant program administered by the CDE to provide support for career technical education in grades K-12, and provides \$400 million in 2015-16, \$300 million in 2016-17, and \$200 million in 2017-18 for this program.

AB 86 (Education Omnibus Trailer Bill), Chapter 48, Statutes of 2013, created the California Career Pathway Trust (CCPT). The 2013 Budget Act provided \$250 million in Proposition 98 General Fund for the SPI to award one-time regional and local implementation grants to school districts, county offices, charter schools and community colleges for the CCPT program.

SB 858 (Education Omnibus Trailer Bill), Chapter 32, Statutes of 2014 appropriated an additional \$250 million for a second round of CCPT grant awards.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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