

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 19, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 6, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2025

SENATE BILL

No. 640

Introduced by Senator Cabaldon

(Principal coauthor: Senator Pérez)

(~~Coauthor: Senator McGuire~~)

(*Coauthors: Senators McGuire and Wahab*)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry, Connolly, ~~and Rogers~~)

(*Ortega, Rogers, Schiavo, and Stefani*)

February 20, 2025

An act to amend Section 66744.1 of, and to add Sections 66209 and 66749.85 to, the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 640, as amended, Cabaldon. Public postsecondary education: admission, transfer, and enrollment.

(1) Existing law establishes the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, as one of the segments of postsecondary education in the state.

Existing law requires the California State University to establish a model uniform set of academic standards for purposes of recognition for admission to the California State University. Under existing law, the University of California and the California State University are expected to plan that adequate spaces are available to accommodate all

California resident students who are eligible and likely to apply to attend an appropriate place within the system.

This bill would establish the CSU Direct Admission Program under which a pupil graduating from a high school of a participating local educational agency is deemed eligible for enrollment into a designated California State University campus. The bill would require, upon the implementation of transcript-informed pupil accounts, the reporting available on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform to be used to provide the data required to determine eligibility for the program, as specified. ~~The bill would require a participating local educational agency to identify each pupil who is eligible under the program on or before September 1 of each year.~~ The bill would require the California College Guidance Initiative, on behalf of the California State University, to transmit a letter of direct admission to each ~~identified~~ *eligible* pupil that notifies the pupil that they have been directly admitted, as specified.

(2) Existing law provides community college students with a transfer pathway, facilitated by mechanisms such as the associate degree for transfer (ADT), allowing students to apply academic credit earned at a community college toward receipt of a baccalaureate degree at a 4-year postsecondary educational institution. Existing law requires a student who earns an ADT to be deemed eligible for transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program when the student meets certain requirements.

Existing law establishes, until July 1, 2027, the Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee for specified purposes, including to serve as the primary entity charged with the oversight of the ADT and to achieve specified objectives relating to the ADT and transfer model curricula (TMCs), as specified. Existing law requires the committee, on or before December 31, 2023, to provide the Legislature with recommendations on certain issues impeding the scaling of the ADT and streamlining transfer across segments for students.

This bill would require the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to establish, in collaboration with the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges and the California State University, an intersegmental curriculum workgroup composed of community college and California State University faculty who teach in fields of study with high opportunity for social mobility for the purpose of creating no fewer than 5 TMCs that are not related to existing ADTs, as specified.

(3) Existing law, until the 2026–27 academic year, requires 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 California State University 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 ADT or another established course of study for transfer within 2 academic years at a California community college.

This bill would extend the above-described dual admission program until the 2035–36 academic year, and would instead require a student to complete an ADT or another established course of study for transfer within 3 academic years at a California community college. The bill would also require the California Community Colleges to take certain actions to promote the program.

(4) By imposing new duties on community college districts, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 66209 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 immediately following Section 66208, to read:
- 3 66209. (a) The CSU Direct Admission Program is hereby
- 4 established.
- 5 (b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
- 6 (1) “California College Guidance Initiative” means the initiative
- 7 defined in Section 10861 and further authorized pursuant to Section
- 8 60900.5.
- 9 (2) “Chancellor” means the Chancellor of the California State
- 10 University.

1 (3) “Local educational agency” means a school district, county
2 office of education, or charter school.

3 (4) “Program” means the CSU Direct Admission Program
4 established pursuant to this section.

5 (5) “University participant” means a campus of the California
6 State University that is designated pursuant to paragraph (1) of
7 subdivision (c) to participate in the CSU Direct Admission
8 Program.

9 (c) (1) The chancellor shall designate one or more campuses
10 of the California State University as university participants in the
11 program.

12 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the chancellor designate
13 each campus of the California State University with available
14 enrollment capacity to be a university participant.

15 ~~(d) (1) The governing board or body of a local educational~~
16 ~~agency may authorize the local educational agency to participate~~
17 ~~in the program.~~

18 ~~(2) A participating local educational agency shall notify the~~
19 ~~chancellor on or before February 1 of the prior academic year if~~
20 ~~the local educational agency intends to participate in the program.~~

21 (e)

22 (d) (1) Upon the implementation of transcript-informed pupil
23 accounts for pupils in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, on the
24 CaliforniaColleges.edu platform, the reporting available on the
25 platform shall be used to provide the data required to determine
26 eligibility for the program.

27 (2) *A local educational agency that complies with paragraph*
28 *(3) of subdivision (g) of Section 60900 and offers*
29 *transcript-informed pupil accounts for pupils in grades 9 to 12,*
30 *inclusive, on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform, as specified in*
31 *paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) of Section 60900, shall participate*
32 *in the program.*

33 ~~(2)~~

34 (3) Direct admission eligibility shall ~~be based on~~ *include, but*
35 *not be limited to*, the coursework completed by the end of grade
36 11. This shall include on-track completion of A–G courses and a
37 qualifying A–G California State University grade point average.

38 (4) *All pupils in grade 12 who are enrolled in a participating*
39 *local educational agency are hereby designated as applicants to*

1 *the California State University for the purpose of making direct*
2 *admissions offers.*

3 ~~(f) On or before September 1 of each year, a participating local~~
4 ~~educational agency shall identify each pupil who is deemed eligible~~
5 ~~for direct admission pursuant to this section.~~

6 ~~(g)~~

7 ~~(e) On or before September 1 the opening of the fall semester~~
8 ~~priority application filing period of each year, the California~~
9 ~~College Guidance Initiative, on behalf of the California State~~
10 ~~University, shall transmit a letter of direct admission, under the~~
11 ~~chancellor's signature, to each pupil identified in enrolled in a~~
12 ~~participating local educational agency who satisfies the eligibility~~
13 ~~requirements described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (f) (d) that~~
14 ~~notifies the pupil that they have been directly admitted. The letter~~
15 ~~shall describe the enrollment procedures the pupil needs to~~
16 ~~complete in order to successfully enroll.~~

17 ~~(h)~~

18 ~~(f) Upon accepting an offer of admission to one of the university~~
19 ~~participants pursuant to this section, a pupil shall complete the~~
20 ~~necessary procedures to enroll at the university participant.~~

21 SEC. 2. Section 66744.1 of the Education Code is amended to
22 read:

23 66744.1. (a) As used in this section, unless the context requires
24 otherwise, "university" means the California State University.

25 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the California State
26 University establish a dual admissions program as a separate
27 transfer pathway for first-time freshman applicants, and that the
28 dual admissions program be designed to aid in achieving the
29 following goals:

30 (1) Increasing access to the university for prospective
31 underrepresented students experiencing limitations in high school
32 curriculum offered, geographical constraints, or financial
33 challenges.

34 (2) Increasing graduation rates among underrepresented students.

35 (3) Reducing student costs and time-to-degree completion.

36 (4) Improving transfer pathways between the California
37 Community Colleges, the University of California, and the
38 university.

39 (5) Increasing predictability for purposes of student and
40 institutional planning.

1 (c) Commencing with the 2023–24 academic year, and each
2 academic year through the 2035–36 academic year, the Trustees
3 of the California State University shall offer a dual admissions
4 program for first-time freshman applicants who meet the criteria
5 described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e). Under this program,
6 first-time freshman applicants may be offered the opportunity to
7 enter into a dual admissions agreement with the university. The
8 agreement shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

9 (1) (A) A guarantee that the student will be admitted to a
10 university campus during a future academic year if the student
11 successfully completes an associate degree for transfer or another
12 established course of study for transfer within three academic years
13 at a California community college.

14 (B) The guarantee of admission shall be for a specific university
15 campus selected by the student at the time of the agreement. If the
16 student's desired major or selected university campus is impacted
17 or oversubscribed, the agreement may specify supplementary
18 criteria for the student to meet, such as required attainment of a
19 grade point average above the minimum defined in the general
20 admission requirements. The university shall specify in the
21 agreement any applicable supplementary criteria, including the
22 specific grade point average that the student must attain in
23 lower-division coursework. If the student plans to complete an
24 associate degree for transfer, the supplementary criteria shall not
25 alter the unit requirements applicable to the selected associate
26 degree for transfer.

27 (2) For students who are eligible to have their fees waived
28 pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 76300) of Chapter
29 2 of Part 47 of Division 7, or under the California College Promise
30 pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 76396) of Chapter
31 2 of Part 47 of Division 7, a guarantee that the applicable campus
32 of the California Community Colleges shall waive their fees while
33 they are participating in the dual admissions program and enrolled
34 at that campus.

35 (3) A guarantee that the student shall have access to library,
36 counseling, and other services from the applicable university
37 campus or the university campus nearest to the student's primary
38 residence, and the applicable California Community College to
39 ensure that the student is informed of the appropriate course
40 requirements to qualify for transfer to the university, and is also

1 informed of the various financial aid options. California
2 Community Colleges are requested to indicate on the student's
3 education plan developed pursuant to Section 78212 that the
4 student is participating in the dual admissions program.

5 (d) To the extent feasible, the university is requested to provide
6 each student who is offered the opportunity to enter into a dual
7 admissions agreement with a provisional financial aid letter
8 indicating the financial aid package the student may receive upon
9 transfer to the university. The letter shall include federal, state,
10 and institutional-based financial aid for which the student may
11 qualify. If providing this information, the university shall clearly
12 indicate that the financial aid package is subject to change based
13 on updated financial information provided on the Free Application
14 for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act
15 application, as applicable, and potential changes in rules governing
16 the provision of federal, state, and institutional-based financial
17 aid.

18 (e) (1) In evaluating applications for dual admissions, the
19 university shall only consider applicants who meet all of the
20 following criteria:

21 (A) The applicant is a first-time freshman applicant who will
22 meet the university's admissions eligibility criteria only upon
23 completion of transfer requirements at a California community
24 college.

25 (B) The applicant provides supporting information regarding
26 the applicant's inability to meet freshman admissions eligibility
27 criteria due to limitations in the high school curriculum offered or
28 personal or financial hardship. For purposes of this subparagraph,
29 supporting information may include, but is not limited to, a letter
30 from a counselor or administrator at the applicant's high school.

31 (C) The applicant plans to complete either of the following:

32 (i) An associate degree for transfer at a California community
33 college.

34 (ii) Another established course of study for transfer at a
35 California community college.

36 (2) The university shall prioritize offers of dual admissions
37 agreements for students who plan to complete an associate degree
38 for transfer at a California community college.

39 (f) The California Community Colleges shall take the following
40 actions to promote the program:

1 (1) Share information about the program at new student
2 orientation.

3 (2) Provide information about the program through an annual
4 email to the new students for each incoming fall term.

5 (3) Post information about the program in an easily identifiable
6 and accessible format on the campus website.

7 (4) Post information about the program in counseling offices
8 and transfer centers.

9 (g) (1) On or before April 1, 2026, the university shall submit
10 a progress report to the Department of Finance and the Legislature
11 pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code. The report
12 shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following information
13 for each participating university campus:

14 (A) The number and names of community colleges that partner
15 with the university campus on a dual admission program.

16 (B) A description of the support services the community college
17 and university campus partners each are providing to dual
18 admission students.

19 (C) The number of students who applied, were admitted, filed
20 a statement of intent to register, and enrolled at each university
21 campus pursuant to a dual admission program, disaggregated by
22 freshman eligibility, community college of attendance, and the
23 race, ethnicity, gender, and, as applicable, federal Pell Grant and
24 AB 540 status of these students.

25 (D) For Fall 2023, 2024, and 2025, the breakdown of all transfer
26 applicants, admits, students who submitted an intent to register,
27 and students who enrolled by community college, race and
28 ethnicity, gender, and Pell Grant or AB 540 status. The universities
29 can satisfy this requirement through any existing public reporting,
30 where applicable.

31 (2) The report to be submitted to the Legislature pursuant to
32 paragraph (1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795
33 of the Government Code.

34 (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2037,
35 and as of that date is repealed.

36 SEC. 3. Section 66749.85 is added to the Education Code, to
37 read:

38 66749.85. (a) As used in this section, the following definitions
39 apply:

1 (1) “ADT” means an associate degree for transfer in a field of
2 study with high opportunity for social mobility.

3 (2) “TMC” means transfer model curricula created for a field
4 of study with high opportunity for social mobility pursuant to this
5 section.

6 (b) The office of the Chancellor of the California Community
7 Colleges shall establish, in collaboration with the Academic Senate
8 for California Community Colleges and the California State
9 University, an intersegmental curriculum workgroup. The
10 workgroup shall be composed of California Community College
11 and California State University faculty who teach courses in fields
12 of study with high opportunity for social mobility. The purpose of
13 the workgroup is to create no fewer than five TMCs that are not
14 related to existing ADTs, in collaboration with the Academic
15 Senate for California Community Colleges.

16 (c) Once a TMC is finalized, the workgroup shall submit it to
17 the chancellor’s office. The chancellor’s office shall make the
18 TMC available to community college districts.

19 (d) If an ADT is created by a community college district based
20 on a TMC finalized and made available pursuant to subdivision
21 (c), each California State University campus shall determine if
22 there is a baccalaureate degree in a similar major to the TMC. This
23 determination of similarity shall ensure that students who earn the
24 ADT that is created under the parameters of that TMC are
25 guaranteed admission in that similar major at one of the California
26 State University campuses offering that major and shall be required
27 to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn the
28 baccalaureate degree that is deemed similar to the major of the
29 ADT if the student stays on that ADT pathway.

30 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
31 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
32 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
33 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
34 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

- 1 _____
- 2 **REVISIONS:**
- 3 **Heading—Lines 5 and 6.**
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