

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2014  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2014  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2014

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1023**

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**Introduced by Senator Liu**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Steinberg)**  
**(Coauthors: Senators Correa, Galgiani, Hancock, Hueso, and**  
**Monning)**

February 14, 2014

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An act to add Article 4.3 (commencing with Section 79156) to Chapter 9 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1023, as amended, Liu. Community colleges: foster youth.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes them to operate campuses and provide instruction.

This bill would authorize the ~~Chancellor's Office~~ *Office of the Chancellor* of the California Community Colleges, in cooperation with the State Department of Social Services, county child welfare agencies, and county probation departments, to enter into agreements with *up to 10* community college districts to provide additional funds for services in support of postsecondary education for foster youth through a program to assemble and coordinate cooperating agency resources. The bill

would provide that these support services include, but are not necessarily limited to, child care and transportation allowances, allowances for books and supplies, counseling, career counseling, matriculation and transfer counseling, monitoring of academic progress, tutoring and mentoring, independent living skills support, frequent in-person contact, outreach and recruitment, and other related services, as well as referrals to mental health services and housing assistance.

The bill would authorize community college districts to apply to the board of governors for funding under the program created by the bill, as specified. The bill would require that a participating student be a current or former foster youth in California whose dependency was established or continued by the court on or after the student's 16th birthday, be no older than 25 years of age at the commencement of any academic year in which he or she participates in the program, and be enrolled for at least 9 units per semester.

The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that, consistent with specified requirements in the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012, and to the extent that a participating community college meets specified responsibilities set forth in that act, any student who participates in the program established by this bill also receive specified matriculation services under that act.

The bill would require the board of governors to submit a biennial report, commencing no later than January 31, 2017, and no later than January 31 of each odd-numbered year thereafter, providing prescribed information about this program.

The bill would be operative in a fiscal year only if sufficient funds have been appropriated for purposes of the bill for that fiscal year.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) There are 57,000 children and youth in California's foster
- 4 care system who have been removed from their biological families
- 5 due to maltreatment and placed into the care and custody of the
- 6 State of California.
- 7 (b) The Legislature recognizes the historic underrepresentation
- 8 of foster youth in postsecondary programs and the need for

1 equitable efforts that enhance the enrollment and retention of foster  
2 youth in public colleges and universities in California.

3 (1) By 21 years of age, 45 percent of former foster youth will  
4 graduate from high school, as compared to 80 percent of  
5 Californians of the same age. By 26 years of age, 4.4 percent of  
6 foster youth will receive a two-year degree and 3.8 percent will  
7 earn a four-year degree, rates significantly below the same-age  
8 population in California.

9 (2) Low educational attainment is a factor in the poor adult  
10 outcomes experienced by youth in foster care. Compared to their  
11 same-age counterparts, former foster youth at 26 years of age are  
12 400 percent more likely to have been incarcerated and 300 percent  
13 more likely to be living below the federal poverty level.

14 (3) Current and former foster youth who attend community  
15 college experience a low rate of persistence, transfer, and degree  
16 completion. Only 41 percent of current and former foster youth in  
17 community college persisted at least one year as compared to 62  
18 percent of the general student population.

19 (c) The Legislature recognizes its responsibility to provide and  
20 adequately fund postsecondary programs and services for students  
21 who are current and former foster youth attending public  
22 postsecondary institutions.

23 (d) Therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to take steps to  
24 encourage the enrollment, retention, and transfer of current and  
25 former foster youth in California's community colleges by  
26 establishing an education program that provides services that  
27 promote their academic success. Providing academic support to  
28 current and former foster youth in California's community colleges  
29 serves a significant governmental and public interest, namely the  
30 reduction in poverty and criminal justice involvement among youth  
31 who have been in foster care in California.

32 SEC. 2. Article 4.3 (commencing with Section 79156) is added  
33 to Chapter 9 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education  
34 Code, to read:

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36 Article 4.3. Support Services for Foster Youth Attending  
37 Community College

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39 79156. ~~The Chancellor's Office~~ *Office of the Chancellor of*  
40 *the California Community Colleges*, in cooperation with the State

1 Department of Social Services, county child welfare agencies, and  
2 county probation ~~departments~~ *departments*, may enter into  
3 agreements with *up to 10* community college districts to provide  
4 additional funds for services in support of postsecondary education  
5 for foster youth through a program to assemble and coordinate  
6 cooperating agency resources. This program shall be known as the  
7 ~~cooperating agencies foster youth educational support program,~~  
8 *Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support Program,*  
9 and shall expand the number of students participating in the  
10 Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services  
11 and shall not displace other students. The funding provided  
12 pursuant to this article shall be separate and apart from the funding  
13 provided under existing cooperative agencies resources for  
14 education programs pursuant to Section 79150. Support services  
15 shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, child care and  
16 transportation allowances, allowances for books and supplies,  
17 counseling, career counseling, matriculation and transfer  
18 counseling, monitoring of academic progress, tutoring and  
19 mentoring, independent living skills support, frequent in-person  
20 contact, outreach and recruitment, other related services, and  
21 referrals to mental health services and housing assistance.

22 79157. A community college district may apply to the board  
23 of governors for funding pursuant to this article. The application  
24 of each participating community college district shall demonstrate  
25 that all existing district resources reasonably available have been  
26 exhausted, and shall provide the number of foster youth who will  
27 be served. The application shall also describe the extent of  
28 cooperation between the local county child welfare department,  
29 the county probation department, the State Department of Social  
30 Services, the local educational opportunity programs and services  
31 program, and the district.

32 79158. A student participant in this program shall meet both  
33 of the following requirements:

34 (a) Be a current or former foster youth in California whose  
35 dependency was established or continued by the court on or after  
36 the youth's 16th birthday.

37 (b) Be no older than 25 years of age at the commencement of  
38 any academic year in which he or she participates in the program.

39 79159. Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 56220 of  
40 Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, the director of the

1 Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services  
2 at each community college may authorize students who are enrolled  
3 for at least nine units per semester to participate in this program.

4 79159.5. It is the intent of the Legislature that, consistent with  
5 the requirements and intent outlined in subdivisions (b) and (c) of  
6 Section 78215, and to the extent that a participating community  
7 college meets the responsibilities outlined in paragraph (2) of  
8 subdivision (a) of Section 78212, any student who participates in  
9 the program pursuant to this article participate in the program of  
10 services outlined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section  
11 78212.

12 79160. The board of governors, in conjunction with the State  
13 Department of Social Services, shall adopt guidelines for the  
14 program. The board of governors shall be responsible for the  
15 administration of the funds for the program. To the extent possible,  
16 the *State* Department of Social Services, in consultation with the  
17 County Welfare Directors Association of California, the ~~California~~  
18 ~~Probation Officers Association~~, *Chief Probation Officers of*  
19 *California*, and other advocates, shall consult with the chancellor's  
20 office to ensure that services provided under this article to eligible  
21 youths are coordinated with, and do not supplant, other services  
22 provided by the county and state, including medical and mental  
23 health care, services provided by a Transitional Housing Placement  
24 ~~Plus Foster Placement-Plus Foster~~ Care provider or Transitional  
25 Housing Placement ~~Plus Program~~ provider, and any other services  
26 identified in a youth's transitional independent living plan, if  
27 applicable.

28 79161. Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government  
29 Code, commencing January 31, 2017, and every two years  
30 thereafter, the board of governors shall submit a report to the  
31 Governor, the education policy committees of the Legislature, and  
32 the California Child Welfare Council describing its efforts to serve  
33 students who are current and former foster youth. These biennial  
34 reports shall also include a review on a campus-by-campus basis  
35 of the enrollment, retention, transfer, and completion rates of foster  
36 youth, including categorical funding of those programs.

- 1 79162. This article shall be operative in a fiscal year only if
- 2 funds have been appropriated for purposes of this article for that
- 3 fiscal year.

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