

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 770**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin**

February 25, 2015

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An act to add Part 54 (commencing with Section 88800) to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 770, as amended, Irwin. Community colleges: basic skills innovation program.

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 authorizes the establishment of community college districts under the administration of community college governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state.

This bill would establish a financial grant and professional development funding program, which would authorize the governing board of a community college district to apply to the chancellor ~~for~~ *for*, *and would require the chancellor to distribute*, multiyear financial grants and professional development funding upon appropriation of funds for that purpose, *not later than 180 days after the chancellor's receipt of the appropriation*, for community colleges within the district to adopt or expand the use of evidence-based models of academic

assessment and placement, remediation, and student support that accelerate the progress of underprepared students toward achieving postsecondary educational and career goals.

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) Over 70 percent of students enrolling, for the first time, in  
4 courses offered by campuses of the California Community Colleges  
5 are classified as underprepared for college-level work and in need  
6 of remediation.

7 (b) National research has found that, regardless of incoming  
8 preparation levels, the more semesters of remediation students are  
9 required to take, the less likely those students are to complete  
10 college-level English and mathematics courses, which are gateway  
11 courses to most postsecondary degree and credential programs,  
12 and for transfer to four-year postsecondary institutions.

13 (c) Research in California has demonstrated that relatively few  
14 students who enter remediation ultimately attain a postsecondary  
15 degree, credential, or transfer to a four-year institution, and that  
16 students of color are disproportionately affected.

17 (d) Drawing on national initiatives aimed at increasing student  
18 completion of college-level English and mathematics courses,  
19 efforts in California have demonstrated the success of innovative  
20 ways to deliver English and mathematics remediation.

21 (e) In those pilot efforts, students' odds of completing  
22 college-level English courses more than double, and their odds of  
23 completing college-level mathematics courses are more than four  
24 times higher in comparison to students in traditional remediation.  
25 However, at most community college campuses, these new  
26 approaches are offered on a small scale and are not available to  
27 most students.

28 SEC. 2. Part 54 (commencing with Section 88800) is added to  
29 Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

1 PART 54. COMMUNITY COLLEGES BASIC SKILLS  
2 INNOVATION PROGRAM

3  
4 CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS  
5

6 88800. A financial grant and professional development funding  
7 program, administered by the chancellor, is hereby established.  
8 The chancellor shall distribute multiyear financial grants and  
9 professional development funding, upon appropriation by the  
10 Legislature for this purpose, *not later than 180 days after receiving*  
11 *the appropriation*, to the governing board of a community college  
12 district that applies and satisfies the requirements of this part.  
13 Moneys allocated pursuant to this program shall be expended for  
14 community colleges within the district to adopt or expand the use  
15 of evidence-based models of academic assessment and placement,  
16 remediation, and student support that accelerate the progress of  
17 underprepared students toward achieving postsecondary educational  
18 and career goals.

19 88805. (a) The governing board of a community college district  
20 may apply for funds pursuant to this part for the purpose of making  
21 more effective, evidence-based practices available to significantly  
22 more underprepared students who enroll at campuses of the  
23 California Community Colleges. A community college within the  
24 district may receive funds for purposes of implementing these  
25 evidence-based practices for the first time or expanding  
26 evidence-based practices that are in effect as of the date of the  
27 district's application for funds.

28 (b) The evidence-based strategies implemented or expanded  
29 pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include innovative basic skills  
30 improvement strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in  
31 accelerating the progress of underprepared students toward, and  
32 increasing the number of underprepared students who successfully  
33 achieve, one or more of the following goals:

34 (1) Completing a college-level English or mathematics course,  
35 or both, within a three-course sequence or less.

36 (2) Earning eight units applicable to a college certificate or  
37 degree.

38 (3) Earning a college certificate or degree approved by the  
39 California Community Colleges.

1 88810. (a) In order to receive a grant, the governing board of  
2 a community college district shall demonstrate in its application  
3 for funding that the community colleges that are to participate in  
4 the grant program will redesign their curriculum, career pathways,  
5 assessment and placement procedures, or any combination thereof,  
6 to implement, or expand the use or application of, one or more of  
7 the following practices and principles:

8 (1) Adopting placement tests and related policies that include  
9 multiple measures of student performance, including grades in  
10 high school courses, especially overall grade point average, and  
11 input from counselors.

12 (2) Increasing the placement of students directly in gateway  
13 English and mathematics courses and career pathways  
14 supplemented by remediation.

15 (3) Aligning content in remedial courses with the students'  
16 programs of academic or vocational study to target students' actual  
17 needs.

18 (4) Completing a college-level English or mathematics course,  
19 or both, within a three-course sequence or less. Students pursuing  
20 mathematics-intensive courses of study may require a longer  
21 sequence of mathematics coursework.

22 (5) Contextualizing remedial instruction in foundational skills  
23 for the industry cluster, pathways, or both, in which the student  
24 seeks to advance.

25 (6) Providing proactive student support services that are  
26 integrated with the instruction provided.

27 (b) Each participating community college shall be responsible  
28 for all of the following:

29 (1) Developing a plan based on one or more of the  
30 evidence-based principles and practices described in subdivision  
31 (a) that demonstrates a clear strategy for ensuring that all of the  
32 following occur within a five-year period:

33 (A) A significant share of the underprepared students who enroll  
34 at participating community colleges within the community college  
35 district achieve one or more of the three goals listed in subdivision  
36 (b) of Section 88805.

37 (B) Underprepared students who are enrolled at the community  
38 college achieve the goals listed in subdivision (b) of Section 88805  
39 within a shorter time period than before the implementation of this  
40 part at the community college.

1 (2) Ensuring that its faculty participate in professional  
2 development regarding academic programs or new curriculum  
3 developed or expanded pursuant to this part, using grant funds to  
4 support that faculty participation.

5 (3) Annually reporting *until 2024* to the chancellor’s office on  
6 program outcomes, disaggregated by demographic characteristics  
7 of its students, for purposes of measuring progress compared to  
8 the community college’s performance before its implementation  
9 of this part. These reports should include all of the following:

10 (A) The number and percentage of underprepared students  
11 served by the grant program.

12 (B) The number and percentages of these underprepared students  
13 achieving each of the three goals listed in subdivision (b) of Section  
14 88805.

15 (C) The number of faculty involved and faculty needs regarding  
16 the innovation and operation of courses pursuant to this part.

17 (c) The chancellor’s office shall be responsible for all of the  
18 following:

19 (1) Administering the grant program, and distributing and  
20 monitoring awards to recipient community college districts.

21 (2) Developing application criteria, administrative guidelines,  
22 and other requirements for purposes of administering the grant  
23 program.

24 (3) (A) Aggregating, analyzing, and reporting—~~annually~~ the  
25 information submitted pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision  
26 (b) to the Legislature on the progress of the grant program in  
27 achieving its prescribed purpose. *The report shall be issued every*  
28 *other year, commencing with the first year the Legislature*  
29 *appropriates funding for this purpose, until July 1, 2024. The*  
30 *initial report shall be due to the Legislature on or before the end*  
31 *of the fiscal year in which the Legislature initially appropriates*  
32 *the funds for this purpose. In subsequent years, the report shall*  
33 *be due to the Legislature on or before July 1.*

34 (B) (i) *The requirement for submitting a report imposed under*  
35 *this paragraph is inoperative on July 1, 2028, pursuant to Section*  
36 *10231.5 of the Government Code.*

- 1     (ii) A report to be submitted pursuant to this paragraph shall
- 2     be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
- 3     Code.

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