

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2822

Introduced by Assembly Member Chiu
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Medina, Santiago, Weber, and Williams)

February 19, 2016

An act to amend Section 78212 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2822, as amended, Chiu. Student financial aid: Student Success and Support Program: emergency student financial assistance.

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, known as the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012, defines “matriculation” as a process that brings a college and a student who enrolls for credit into an agreement for the purpose of realizing the student’s educational objectives. The act specifies the matriculation services that community colleges are required to provide.

This bill would authorize the use of Student Success and Support Program funds for the provision of emergency student financial assistance, as defined, to eligible students, as defined, *to overcome unforeseen financial challenges, as specified, that would directly impact a student’s ability to persist in his or her course of study*, if emergency

student financial assistance is included in an institution's plan for interventions to students. *The bill would authorize no more than 3% of the total funding that a community college district or campus receives for the Student Success and Support Program to be used for the provision of emergency student financial assistance.*

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) *Given the need to improve community college student*
4 *outcomes, the Legislature required the California Community*
5 *Colleges to develop plans to improve student success through the*
6 *Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012 (Article 1*
7 *commencing with Section 78210) of Chapter 2 of Part 48 of*
8 *Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code).*

9 (b) *Research indicates that students' ability to pay for nontuition*
10 *costs plays a major role in determining the outcomes of their*
11 *academic careers and impacts student success. Unexpected*
12 *financial emergencies can play a major role when community*
13 *college students drop out of school.*

14 (c) *Emergency aid is an effective strategy to retain students and*
15 *ultimately improve graduation rates and overall student success.*
16 *Emergency aid provides the flexibility needed to respond to a*
17 *student's unexpected financial emergency that may arise during*
18 *the academic year. Emergency aid is a critical tool for student*
19 *retention and persistence that is most effective as a part of a*
20 *broader set of student success efforts.*

21 (d) *It is in the interest of the state to reduce the attrition rates*
22 *of full-time students. Nationally, billions of dollars are lost when*
23 *full-time students do not return in what would be their second year*
24 *of college. California has lost more than one hundred million*
25 *dollars (\$100,000,000) in state and federal funding due to first-year*
26 *attrition. Emergency aid is an efficient investment that addresses*
27 *student attrition while only providing small dollar grants when a*
28 *student is in crisis. With this type of well-timed aid, students are*
29 *more likely to complete the academic term and re-enroll for the*
30 *next term.*

1 (e) A well-educated citizenry provides tremendous benefits to
2 the state as higher educational attainment is connected with higher
3 earnings, which produce more tax revenue and lower the cost of
4 social services.

5 SECTION 1.

6 SEC. 2. Section 78212 of the Education Code is amended to
7 read:

8 78212. (a) (1) For purposes of this article, “matriculation”
9 means a process that brings a college and a student into an
10 agreement for the purpose of achieving the student’s educational
11 goals and completing the student’s course of study. The agreement
12 involves the responsibilities of both parties to attain those
13 objectives through the college’s established programs, policies,
14 and requirements including those established by the board of
15 governors pursuant to Section 78215.

16 (2) The institution’s responsibility under the agreement includes
17 the provision of student services to provide a strong foundation
18 and support for their academic success and ability to achieve their
19 educational goals. The program of services funded through the
20 Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012, which shall be
21 known and may be cited as the Student Success and Support
22 Program, shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of
23 the following:

24 (A) Orientation services designed to provide to students, on a
25 timely basis, information concerning campus procedures, academic
26 expectations, financial assistance, and any other matters the college
27 or district finds appropriate.

28 (B) Assessment before course registration, as defined in Section
29 78213.

30 (C) Counseling and other education planning services, which
31 shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

32 (i) Counseling and advising.

33 (ii) Assistance to students in the exploration of educational and
34 career interests and aptitudes and identification of educational
35 objectives, including, but not *necessarily* limited to, preparation
36 for transfer, associate degrees, and career technical education
37 certificates and licenses.

38 (iii) The provision of information, guided by sound counseling
39 principles and practices, using a broad array of delivery
40 mechanisms, including technology-based strategies to serve a

1 continuum of student needs and abilities, that will enable students
2 to make informed choices.

3 (iv) Development of an education plan leading to a course of
4 study and guidance on course selection that is informed by, and
5 related to, a student’s academic and career goals.

6 (D) Referral to specialized support services as needed and
7 available, including, but not necessarily limited to, federal, state,
8 and local financial assistance; health services; career services;
9 veteran support services; foster youth services; extended
10 opportunity programs and services provided pursuant to Article 8
11 (commencing with Section 69640) of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of
12 Division 5; campus child care services provided pursuant to Article
13 6 (commencing with Section 66060) of Chapter 2 of Part 40 of
14 Division 5; programs that teach basic skills education and English
15 as a second language; and disabled student services provided
16 pursuant to Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 67300) of Part
17 40 of Division 5.

18 (E) Evaluation of each student’s progress and referral to
19 appropriate interventions for students who are enrolled in basic
20 skills courses, who have not declared an educational goal as
21 required, or who are on academic probation, as defined by
22 standards adopted by the Board of Governors of the California
23 Community Colleges and community college districts.

24 (3) The student’s responsibilities under the agreement include,
25 but are not necessarily limited to, the identification of an academic
26 and career goal upon application, the declaration of a specific
27 course of study after a specified time period or unit accumulation,
28 as defined by the board of governors, diligence in class attendance
29 and completion of assigned coursework, and the completion of
30 courses and maintenance of academic progress toward an
31 educational goal and course of study identified in the student’s
32 education plan. To ensure that students are not unfairly impacted
33 by the requirements of this chapter, the board of governors shall
34 establish a reasonable implementation period that is phased in as
35 resources are available to provide nonexempt students with the
36 core services pursuant to this section.

37 (b) Funding for the Student Success and Support Program shall
38 be targeted to fully implement orientation, assessment, counseling
39 and advising, and other education planning services needed to
40 assist a student in making an informed decision about his or her

1 educational goal and course of study and in the development of
2 an education plan.

3 (c) (1) Funding for the Student Success and Support Program
4 may be used for provision of emergency student financial
5 assistance to help eligible students to overcome unforeseen
6 financial challenges, ~~including,~~ *but challenges that would directly*
7 *impact the student's ability to persist in his or her course of study.*
8 *These challenges include, but are not necessarily limited to, the*
9 *immediate need for shelter or food. Each community college district*
10 *and campus is encouraged to consider the unique characteristics*
11 *of its student body in developing specific guidelines for further*
12 *defining what constitutes an unforeseen financial challenge for its*
13 *students.*

14 (2) In order for emergency student financial assistance to be an
15 allowable use of Student Success and Support Program funds,
16 emergency student financial assistance shall be included in the
17 institution's plan for interventions to students.

18 (3) For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms are
19 defined as follows:

20 (A) "Eligible student" means a student who has experienced an
21 unforeseen financial challenge, who currently meets satisfactory
22 academic progress of the institution he or she attends, and who is
23 at risk of not persisting in his or her course of study due to the
24 unforeseen financial challenge.

25 (B) "Emergency student financial assistance" means financial
26 support in the form of financial assistance to support a student to
27 help overcome unforeseen financial challenges so that the student
28 can continue his or her course of study.

29 (4) *No more than 3 percent of the total funding that a community*
30 *college district or campus receives for the Student Success and*
31 *Support Program may be used for the provision of emergency*
32 *student financial assistance.*