

FEDERAL

S.5091 - BASIC ACT - Padilla

“The BASIC Act establishes a \$1 billion competitive grant program to help colleges and universities, including community colleges, Historically Black colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs), address students' unmet basic needs and enhance data sharing between federal agencies that manage public assistance programs.”

Bill Language

- [Text - S.5091 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): BASIC Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

One Pager

- [BASIC-Act-One-Pager.pdf](#)

STATE LEGISLATION

AB791 (BERMAN)

Creating an accurate COA for CA Institutes.

Legislative Proposal to Improve Accuracy of Cost of Attendance Budgets for Student Success:

A student's COA is determined by their institution, however research conducted has proved that oftentimes, they are inaccurate either by overestimating or underestimating the cost. If a student's institution underestimates their COA, they will need to pay out of pocket for those expenses that were not covered- potentially turning to private loans, family &/or friend assistance or extra responsibilities taken on to continue their education... limiting their access to classes, resources, & education.

Here in California, in a recent [study](#) published in Oct. 2024, found that **53%** of public colleges **UNDERESTIMATED** their students COA, not accurately displaying the rising costs of inflation.

This bill aims to eliminate potential obstacles that hinder a student's availability to access their necessary funds needed to have an accessible education. Moving forward, this bill would start in 2026 where it will require ALL California Institutions to provide their students with an easy, accessible form to create a COA appeal (at any point through the academic year, established as **July 1st - June 30**) with the ability to add expenses that include (but not limited to)...

- Implement a cost of attendance methodology that sets the off-campus student housing budget at no less than one-half of the median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the California metropolitan area where the institution is located.

- Implement a cost of attendance adjustment process that allows for adjustments to any student expense category included in the institution's cost of attendance budget, including but not limited to housing, food, transportation, books and supplies, miscellaneous personal expenses and dependent care.
- An institution will be able to consider the following...
 - Expenses associated with a student's disability, including special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment, and supplies that are reasonably incurred and not provided for by other agencies
 - Housing and utility costs for reasonable living accommodations that exceed the allowance provided for in the cost of attendance budget.
 - The cost of purchasing a computer.
 - The cost of uninsured medical, dental, or optical expenses.
 - The cost of transportation exceeds the allowance provided for in the cost of attendance budget, including automobile expenses such as gas, repairs and insurance.
 - The cost of dependent care expenses for students with dependent children.
- A student will not be required to pay any third-party costs in which the Institution requires the student to provide for their request, waiving it for them if requested...
- An institution will be required to provide a decision in 14 calendar days, providing reasoning if a request is denied and access to dispute the decision.
- If their initial request is denied, a student can request a second one that will be granted in which the original reviewer is no longer allowed to participate in.
- Institutions will be responsible for providing students with an easy, non-complicated form to access a COA appeal as well as contacts in which they are able to receive help.

Bill Language

- [Cost of Attendance Bill Language .pdf - Google Drive](#)

Bill Analysis

- [Jan. 2025 - Legislation for Consideration.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Study cited in Bill

- [College-Costs-Uncovered_October-2024.pdf](#)

ABXXXX - Legislative Proposal to Increase Access to Campus Housing for College Students with Experience in Foster Care and Homelessness:

FROZEN

- Public Institutions (CCC, CSU's, & UC's) will need to give first priority to former or current homeless youth, or students who were part of the foster system
- The term "Homeless Youth" is classified as an individual 25 years or younger

- These housing projects will be constructed as a result of Grants that each respective campus will need to apply to.

Bill Language

- [Student Housing Bill Language - Jan. 13.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Bill Analysis

- [Jan. 2025 - Legislation for Consideration.pdf - Google Drive](#) (Second Page)

SB 98 Perez - Protecting Undocumented Students from Immigration Enforcement and Loss of Financial Aid

This bill would require each school district, county office of education, and charter school to immediately notify all pupils, parents, faculty, staff, and other school community members of the presence of immigration officers, as defined, on the school site. To the extent that the bill would impose new duties on school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The governing board or body of a local educational agency shall do all of the following:

- (1) Provide information to parents and guardians, as appropriate, regarding their children's right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs. This information shall include information relating to "know your rights" immigration enforcement established by the Attorney General and may be provided in the annual notification to parents and guardians pursuant to Section 48980 or any other cost-effective means determined by the local educational agency.
 - (2) Educate pupils about the negative impact of bullying other pupils based on their actual or perceived immigration status or their religious beliefs and customs.
 - (3) Immediately notify all pupils, parents, faculty, staff, and other school community members of the presence of immigration officers on the school site.
- In the event that an undocumented student is detained, deported, or is unable to attend to the student's academic requirements due to the actions of an immigration officer in relation to a federal immigration order, the college or university shall make all reasonable efforts to assist the student in retaining any eligibility for financial aid, fellowship stipends, exemption from nonresident tuition fees, funding for research or other educational projects, housing stipends or services, or other benefits-the student has been

awarded or received, and permit the student to be re enrolled if and when the student is able to return to the college or university. It is the intent of the Legislature that, in implementing this paragraph, California colleges and universities make reasonable and good faith efforts to provide for a seamless transition in a student's reenrollment and reacquisition of campus services and supports.

- If there is reason to suspect that a student, faculty, or staff person has been taken into custody as a result of an immigration enforcement action, the college or university, as soon as possible, shall notify the person's emergency contact that the person has been taken into custody.

Bill Language

- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB271

Bill Analysis

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_h4dTHyIVqQ8EyNd-B5dKZwPe_W83oxH/view

SB271 Reyes - Students with Dependent Children; Childcare Services, Resources, and Programs.

This bill would require the financial aid office of each campus of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to provide students with dependent children information on the campus' childcare development center and childcare offerings, if applicable, a referral to the campus Basic Needs Center, and information on supplemental awards such as the Cal Grant award for students with dependent children, as provided.

Bill Language

- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB271

Bill Analysis

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_h4dTHyIVqQ8EyNd-B5dKZwPe_W83oxH/view

URGENT AB 313 Ortega - Extension for FAFSA and other California Financial Aid programs **ALREADY ENACTED!!!**

For the 2025–26 award year only, every financial aid program administered by the Student Aid Commission with an application deadline of March 3, 2025, shall have the application deadline extended to April 3, 2025. This extension applies, but is not limited to, all of the following financial aid programs:

- The Competitive Cal Grant A and B award program
- The Cal Grant 4 Program
- The California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Program
- The Middle Class Scholarship Program

Bill Proposals - To be adopted !?!!

AB XXX - Standardization of Financial Aid letters

This bill would standardize financial aid award offer letters across California's higher education institutions to reduce confusion for students and families, particularly first-generation and low-income students. Currently, institutions use inconsistent formats, definitions, and categorizations, making it difficult for students to compare financial aid packages. To address this issue, this bill proposes that the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) convene a workgroup of students, higher education representatives, and college access organizations to develop a required, uniform financial aid offer letter template for all Cal Grant participating institutions. Standardization will help students make clearer, more informed enrollment and financial decisions while avoiding unnecessary debt.

Bill Language

- [2025 Bill Proposal on Financial Aid Offer Letter Standardization.docx - Google Docs](#)

AB XXX - Data Collection during FAFSA to ease CalFresh Application

This bill would seek to increase college students' access to CalFresh food benefits by streamlining the data-sharing process between the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS). Many students face barriers in awareness and application for food assistance, despite being eligible. To address this, the bill would propose to allow FAFSA applicants to opt-in to sharing their financial data through CSAC's Web Grants system, which would then be used by CalSAWS to determine eligibility and facilitate targeted outreach. This approach follows the successful Compton College model, which significantly increased student CalFresh enrollment. By clarifying data-sharing policies and addressing privacy concerns, this legislation aims to reduce food insecurity among

Bill Language

- [2025 Bill Proposal on Use of FAFSA Data for CalFresh Student Applications.docx - Google Docs](#)

AB XXX- Data Collection

This bill would enhance data reporting by requiring Cal Grant participating institutions to provide student-level enrollment, persistence, and graduation data to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). Currently, CSAC only receives aggregate student outcome data, limiting its ability to analyze equity gaps and measure the return on investment (ROI) of state financial aid programs. With access to individual-level data, CSAC can conduct more detailed analyses and publish an annual report starting in June 2026 to assess the impact of Cal Grant programs on student success and workforce outcomes. This amendment ensures greater accountability and data-driven decision-making amid potential budget cuts.

Bill Language

- [2025 Bill Proposal on Data for Aid Outcomes Analysis.docx - Google Docs](#)