
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: AB 1062 **Hearing Date:** June 27, 2018
Author: Levine
Version: June 11, 2018
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Lynn Lorber

Subject: Postsecondary education: Trustees of the California State University.

NOTE: This bill was previously heard by this Committee on June 21, 2017, and was subsequently amended to replace its contents. This is the first time the bill is being heard in its current form.

SUMMARY

This bill expands existing reporting requirements for the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees related to key performance data on online courses.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes a California resident enrolled at a CSU campus who meets specified requirements to enroll, without formal admission, in a course provided entirely online by another CSU campus. (Education Code § 66760.5)
- 2) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2015, to establish both of the following:
 - a) An easily accessible online database of online courses available at all CSU campuses.
 - b) Plans for an intrasystem cross-enrollment process to expedite student learning that will be operational at the beginning of the 2015–16 academic year. (EC § 66764)
- 3) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2015, for purposes of measuring the effectiveness of online education, to establish a series of uniform definitions for online education. Existing law requires the definitions to, at a minimum, include a systemwide definition for an online course where the course can be entirely completed remotely. (EC § 89225)
- 4) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2017, and by January 1 every two years thereafter, to report to the Legislature key performance data on online courses including but not limited to all of the following:
 - a) The number of students enrolled at each campus.

- b) Course completion rates for courses other than online courses.
 - c) Completion rates for degree programs that include no online courses.
 - d) Grade point average for students enrolled in online courses.
 - e) The number of students cross-enrolled in online courses at a California State University (CSU) campus other than the campus at which they are matriculated.
 - f) Course completion rates for students enrolled in online courses.
 - g) Completion rates for degree programs that include online courses. (EC § 89226)
- 5) Requires the CSU Trustees, by January 1, 2017, to report to the Legislative Analyst the key performance data described in # 4. (EC § 89226)
- 6) Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), by January 1, 2018, to submit a status update to the Legislature regarding CSU's implementation of creating an accessible online database of online courses, plans for an intrasystem cross-enrollment system, and establishing uniform definitions for online education, a report on key performance data. Existing law also requires the LAO to include in the report an assessment of the extent to which the online programs of the CSU are operating in a manner consistent with legislative intent and statutory requirements. (EC § 89226)
- 7) Requires student enrollment and completion rate data included in the report to be made available by demographics, including age, gender, and ethnicity.
- 8) Sunsets the reporting requirement on July 1, 2021.

ANALYSIS

This bill expands existing reporting requirements for the CSU Board of Trustees related to key performance data on online courses. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Expands, beginning January 1, 2019, the existing requirement for the CSU Trustees to report to the Legislature, by January 1, of every odd numbered year, key performance data on online courses to include:
- a) Student enrollment (full-time equivalent and headcount) in all state-sponsored online courses, disaggregated by undergraduate students, as well as by campus.
 - b) Cross-campus online enrollment (full-time equivalent) by host campus.
 - c) Successful course completion rates in cross-campus online courses.

- d) Courses completed by cross-enrolled online students, specifying the type of academic credit they received, including lower division, upper division, or graduate level.
- 2) Specifies that key performance data is to relate to *state-sponsored* online courses.
- 3) Specifies that the data on the number of students who are cross-enrolled in online courses is to include the number of *full-time equivalent and headcount* students.
- 4) Provides that the existing requirement to establish uniform definitions for online education, in measuring the effectiveness of online education, is for the purpose for measuring online education as a tool in systemwide efforts toward degree or certificate completion.
- 5) Strikes references to outdated timelines by which the California State University (CSU) is to take specified actions related to online courses, and for the Legislative Analyst to complete the report. (See Comment # 2)

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Chapter 362 of 2013 (AB 386, Levine) requires CSU to improve students’ access to online courses by creating a streamlined process for students to find, enroll in, and receive credit for online coursework offered by any CSU campus. The bill required CSU to report biennially on certain enrollment and performance data related to online education. On January 3, 2018, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) released a report based on the bill’s requirements. The report recommended additional enrollment and performance data. They found that CSU still has more work to do in order to comply with requirements of Chapter 363, particularly through developing a more student-friendly database of online courses.”
- 2) ***Recommendations made by the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO).*** The LAO issued a report in January 2018, titled *An Evaluation of CSU’s Cross-Campus Online Education Program*. This report includes a recommendation to require CSU to report on four areas:
 - a) Actions related to boosting cross-campus online enrollment.
 - b) Adopting a common learning management system.
 - c) Additional data on enrollment and key performance data on online education, *including the exact information added by this bill.*
 - d) More information on online baccalaureate degree completion programs.
- 3) ***Additional data so soon?*** This bill would take effect on January 1, 2019, and requires the biennial report due on the same day to include additional information. According to the CSU, they are preparing to include this additional

data in the report but indicate they will have trouble meeting the January 1, 2019, deadline. The California State University is requesting, and the author has agreed, to push the report due date back to January 15, 2019. Therefore, **staff recommends an amendment** to change the due date of the biennial report to January 15, 2019, and January 15 every two years thereafter.

- 4) ***Fiscal impact.*** This bill has not yet been analyzed by a fiscal committee, as it was recently amended significantly. This is the first time the bill is being heard in its current form.

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received

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