

Senate Education Committee 2015 Oversight Hearings

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1 Corinthian Colleges Closure: What's Next For California Students?

Joint Oversight Hearing, May 13, 2015: Corinthian Colleges Closure: What's Next For California Students?

The Senate Education Committee and the Senate Committee on Business Professions and Economic Development met to determine options for relief and recourse the Senate could provide to students impacted by the abrupt closure of Heald, Everest and WyoTech schools in California and the Chapter 11 filing by parent company Corinthian Colleges. The Committees were briefed on the status of efforts by the Office of the Attorney General, Community Colleges, Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education and California Student Aid Commission, providing an opportunity for the Senate to make thoughtful and informed decisions and take appropriate action on behalf of these students.

Outcomes:

- The hearing resulted in the submission of a letter to the US Department of Education jointly signed by Pro Tem, the minority leader, the chairs and members of both committees requesting that the USDOE take specific actions to assist students.
- The Senate Education Committee subsequently heard and supported legislation to extend state relief to affected students. AB 573 (Medina), which would have provided state assistance to students affected by the Corinthian Colleges closures, was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

2 Adult Education: Moving Forward.

Joint Informational Hearing, March 11, 2015: Adult Education: Moving Forward.

In 2013-14, AB 86 was enacted to direct the California Department of Education and the California Community College Chancellor's office to jointly implement a planning process to integrate and improve adult education, and to provide funding to be distributed to regional consortia throughout the state for this purpose. AB 86 and SB 173

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(Liu, Statutes of 2014-15) required a report on these efforts as well as recommendations on accountability, assessment, evaluation, data collection and fee policies, relative to adult education. The Senate Education Committee jointly held a hearing with the Assembly Committees on Education and Higher Education to hear the recommendations from the report, to consider the Governor's 2015-16 budget proposals for Adult Education, and to hear directly from the regional consortia about their experience.

Outcome:

- The 2015-16 budget included \$500 million in funding for a new Adult Education Block Grant, required the coordination of various entities to provide more effective education and training, required the development of a comprehensive plan in each region, to be updated every three years, and annual reporting on the use and effectiveness of these funds. In addition, it included \$25 million to help consortia establish the systems necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs.

3 California Association of Student Councils. (CASC).

Informational Hearing, February 25, 2015: California Association of Student Councils (CASC).

Each legislative session the CASC presents a number of legislative proposals for the committee's consideration. Among their 6 proposals was legislation to require a formal elimination process for a student school board member position and a 60 day response limit to a petition to add a student school board member. The committee heard specific examples of the removal of a student from a specific school board without any public record or official vote and the failure to respond to a petition submitted by students to establish a student member on another school board.

Outcome:

- SB 532 (Leyva, Chapter 317, Statutes of 2015) requires that a school district governing board act on a request for pupil representation on the board within 60 days of receipt of the request, and requires a majority vote of all voting members of the board in order to eliminate a student representative from the board, subject to the motion to do so being noticed as a public item on the board's agenda prior to the vote.

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4 K-12 School Facilities Program: History, Current Status, and Future Options.

Informational Hearing, February 18, 2015: K-12 School Facilities Program: History, Current Status, and Future Options.

The Senate Education Committee and the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education held a joint informational hearing to discuss significant changes in the way school facilities needs are met, as proposed by the Governor. The committee examined concerns about an overly complex program, growing debt service obligations, and various concepts for a new program designed to be better aligned with the state's policy objectives. The committee was provided with greater detail on the Governor's proposal and various alternatives, heard from experts on the issues and challenges under the existing program, learned about facility funding models in other states and listened to the perspective of builders, school districts, and other stakeholders.

Outcomes:

- The Chair of the Senate Education Committee introduced SB 114 (Liu) the K-12 Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016, which is currently on the Senate inactive file
- The Legislature continues its dialog with the Governor's Office on potential changes to the existing program and the means by which school facilities will be funded in the future.

5 Implementing the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Legislation: Current Status, Opportunities, Challenges, and Options.

Informational Hearing, January 21, 2015: Implementing the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Legislation: Current Status, Opportunities, Challenges, and Options.

The Committee heard from the State Board of Education, school districts, county offices of education, researchers and equity groups about the implementation of the LCFF. Discussion topics included the development of LCAPs, state oversight and the roles of the new evaluation rubrics, API, and other accountability tools. In addition the committee explored the means by which these new processes would ensure the Legislature's and state agency's oversight and support of the new funding system.

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Outcome:

- While there was no specific legislation that resulted, in acknowledgement of the complexity and importance of the process, the 2015-16 budget extended the statutory deadline for the State Board's adoption of the evaluation rubrics. Additionally, the hearing helped inform the Legislature in its continuing dialogue with the State Board and stakeholders regarding the development of the evaluation rubrics, as well as the critical role it will play in the evolution of the state's new accountability system for K-12. As the process evolves, the committee intends to continue its oversight of the implementation of the LCFF and the related policy issues around accountability and equity.

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