

Date of Hearing: April 28, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 490 (Alejo and Gatto) – As Amended March 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Community Colleges: Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education program

SUMMARY: Appropriates for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, \$40,000,000 from an unspecified funding source to the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors (BOG) to be allocated, as specified, for Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and for the administration of the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Appropriates \$40,000,000 from an unspecified funding source, for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, to the CCC BOG to be allocated as follows:
 - a) Thirty-two million dollars for EOPS; and,
 - b) Eight million dollars for the administration of CARE.
- 2) Declares the following findings of the Legislature:
 - a) The EOPS program was established in 1969 through Senate Bill 164 of the 1969–70 Regular Session (Chapter 1579 of the Statutes of 1969), which was authored by the Honorable Alfred E. Alquist to extend the opportunity for community college enrollment to all who may profit from that education regardless of economic, social, and educational status;
 - b) EOPS was established to provide academic and resource support to community college students whose educational and socioeconomic backgrounds might prevent them from successfully completing college;
 - c) EOPS was specifically designed for students with a multitude of educational needs who are first-generation, English language learner, underprepared, reentry, or at-risk college students, or students who may fall into more than one of these categories;
 - d) EOPS provides essential services that are specifically designed to supplement community colleges' academic and student services and vocational programs, and to help eligible students complete their educational goals;
 - e) EOPS serves as the first social and education justice program which addresses the issues of access, equity, and completion;
 - f) EOPS strategically conducts outreach and recruitment that targets high-risk students who demonstrate educational and financial need, and celebrates the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of our community college system and state;

- g) EOPS student support services include intensive directive counseling and guidance to help students with educational planning and career assessment, monitoring of academic progress, peer-to-peer advising, basic skills instruction, tutoring, child care, work study, book grants, and emergency student loans;
- h) EOPS was the first state-funded program to recognize the unique educational needs of welfare-dependent single parents;
- i) The CARE program was established under the auspices of EOPS through the enactment of Assembly Bill 3103 of the 1981–82 Regular Session (Chapter 1029 of the Statutes of 1982), which was authored by the Honorable Teresa P. Hughes, to help single parent EOPS-eligible community college students break the welfare-dependency cycle;
- j) Through the CARE program, EOPS students receive personal counseling and academic advising, social service referrals and advocacy, specialized courses and workshops on parenting, personal development, self-esteem, and college survival skills, and educational grants for child care, textbooks, supplies, and transportation;
- k) The EOPS and CARE programs have successfully assisted over 1,000,000 community college students since 1969 to fulfill those students' educational and personal aspirations;
- l) Inadequate state funding in recent years has caused many EOPS and CARE programs to reduce the amount of financial aid, textbook support, and child care grants provided to eligible students in need, to prematurely close the application deadline for acceptance to the program, to deny program services to eligible EOPS and CARE students, or to do a combination of these; and,
- m) EOPS has achieved well-established outcomes, including increasing access, equity, and completion.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a community college district (CCD), with the approval of the CCC BOG, to establish an EOPS, specifying that any CCD that provides EOPS shall supplement the regular educational programs of the CCD to encourage the enrollment of students handicapped by language, social, and economic disadvantages, and to facilitate the successful completion of their educational goals and objectives; tasks the CCC BOG with adopting regulations which include various objectives, including, but not limited to: a) EOPS shall include, but not be limited to, staff qualified to counsel all EOPS students regarding their individual educational objectives and the specific academic or vocational training program necessary to achieve said objectives; and, b) the EOPS director at each CCC shall work with other community college staff to encourage all interested EOPS students to enroll in existing community college classes designed to develop skills necessary for successful study at a university; defines "extended opportunity program" to mean a special program or method of instruction designed to facilitate the language, educational, or social development of a student and increase his/her potential for success in college; defines "extended opportunity services" to mean a program of assistance designed to aid students with socioeconomic handicaps to permit them to enroll and participate in the educational

activities of college, and to progress toward completing their educational goals and objectives; creates the Advisory Committee on EOPS – comprised of members appointed by various entities, as specified; specifies that the Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the CCC BOG; and, allows the CCC BOG to use up to one percent of the funds appropriated for the EOPS programs by the annual Budget Act to monitor program activities and to conduct the evaluation of EOPS offered by CCDs (Education Code Sections 69641, 69641.5, 69642, 69643, 69648.5, and 69649).

- 2) Authorizes the CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), in cooperation with the State Department of Social Services and the State Employment Development Department, to enter into agreements with CCDs, which, prior to July 1, 1984, established CARE programs, for the purpose of providing additional funds for support services for CARE programs. Specifies that support services shall include, but not be limited to, child care and transportation allowances, books and supplies, counseling, and other related services. Specifies that participants in CARE programs shall be at least 18 years of age, be a single head-of-household, be receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and be desirous of completing their high school education or pursuing a job-relevant curriculum. Specifies that the CCC BOG shall be responsible for the administration of the funds for CARE (EC Sections 79150, 79152, and 79154).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Background on EOPS and CARE.* EOPS was created in 1969 to enable low income, educationally disadvantaged students “affected by language, social, and economic handicaps” to achieve a college education. There are 113 EOPS programs funded in 72 CCDs. For over 42 years, EOPS has continuously provided guidance, motivation, support services and resources to help students complete their educational goals, including vocational certificates, associate degrees and transfer to four-year institutions.

EOPS provides academic and financial support to community college students whose educational and socioeconomic backgrounds may deter them from successfully attending college and completing their educational goals. Services are specifically designed to offer educational support services to address the specific needs of at-risk students, including but not limited to:

- 1) **Individualized Counseling and Support:** Each student is required to meet with an EOPS counselor at least three times per term. In addition to offering guidance, motivation and support, EOPS counselors assist students with the development of individualized, sequential, multi-term education plans from which they are able to navigate toward the successful completion of their educational goals.
- 2) **Academic Progress Monitoring:** EOPS monitors the academic progress of each student to ensure that they receive timely intervention and appropriate supportive services to successfully complete classes and educational goals.
- 3) **Tutoring Services:** Tutoring services may be offered on a one-on-one basis, in small groups or in a highly individualized manner appropriate for the student’s needs. EOPS may provide tutoring for a more extensive time period than general college services.

- 4) EOPS Textbook Services Program: Students are provided grants or vouchers each term so their required textbooks are available to them in time for the first class meeting; some colleges provide a textbook rental program as well.
- 5) Specialized Transition Services: University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) undergraduate admissions application fees are waived for EOPS students to enhance their ability to transfer to UC or CSU campuses.
- 6) Other Services, such as computer loan programs, transportation services, meal tickets and school supplies.
- 7) Workshops: Tailored to meet the special educational needs of EOPS students, workshops, in topics such as study skills, time-management, and money management, are offered throughout the year.

To note, according to the CCCCO, systemwide, in 2013-2014, there were 78,978 CCC students benefiting from EOPS.

CARE was established in the early 1980s as a unique educational program geared toward the welfare recipient who desires job-relevant education to break the dependency cycle. In addition to the core supportive services provided by the EOPS program, CARE students may be awarded supplemental grants, services and allowances to pay for educationally-related expenses (such as child care, transportation, textbooks and supplies) not offered by other resources to strengthen their retention, persistence, graduation and transfer rates.

To note, according to the CCCCO, systemwide, in 2013-2014, there were 6,169 CCC students benefiting from CARE.

State Budget. The 2013-20014 Budget provided \$79,273,000 for EOPS and \$9,332,000 for CARE. However, according to information provided by the author, these numbers are still below the fiscal need to provide access to said programs for more students. The author contends that restoration of funding will allow EOPS to serve approximately 22,000 more students and for CARE to serve an additional 5,000 students.

Purpose of the measure. According to the author, this bill seeks to restore funding to EOPS and CARE programs, which serve low income and historically disadvantaged students attending CCCs. The author contends that AB 490 will help close the achievement gap by allowing more students access to these services and receive the necessary additional tools they need in order to succeed and reach their educational goals.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges
California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability

California Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Association
(sponsor)
Cañada College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Program and the
Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education
College of the Canyons' Extended Opportunity Programs and Services/Cooperative Agencies
Resources for Education
College of the Desert's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Program and the
Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Fresno City College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Program and the
Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education
Gavilan College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Program and the
Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education
Imperial Valley College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Program
Ironworkers Local 377
Mendocino College
Reedley College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Program and the
Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education
Sacramento City College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Program and the
Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education
San José-Evergreen Community College District
15 Individuals

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960