

March 8, 2018

An Overview of the California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented to:
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1
On Education
Hon. Anthony Portantino, Chair



Background



State Created Strong Workforce Program in 2016-17

- The 2016-17 budget provided \$200 million in ongoing funding to the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor's Office to create a new career technical education (CTE) program.
- In 2017-18, the state folded in a former CTE initiative, increasing Strong Workforce funding to \$248 million.
- The purpose of the Strong Workforce program is to improve the availability and quality of CTE programs leading to certificates, degrees, and credentials.
- Program funds supplement about \$2 billion in apportionment funding for CTE instruction. Strong Workforce funds are intended to support smaller class sizes for certain CTE courses, relatively expensive CTE equipment costs, and regional planning and coordination.



Program Is Consistent With Recommendations of the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy

- Task Force was established by the Board of Governors in late 2014. It recommended making CTE course offerings more responsive to regional labor market needs.
- Task Force made various other recommendations, including (1) revising the CTE curriculum approval process to make it less time consuming and more responsive to industry need, and (2) revising ways for industry professionals to meet minimum instructor qualifications for teaching CTE courses.

Regional Planning



Program Emphasizes Regional Planning

- Strong Workforce requires neighboring community colleges to form a regional consortium. Program has eight such consortia. The primary purpose of a consortium is to coordinate CTE activities among colleges in the region.
- Each consortium must collaborate with various regional stakeholders, including local workforce development boards, industry leaders, and local education agencies, to develop a four-year plan for how they will address regional workforce needs.
- Each four-year plan must include information on service delivery, expenditures, regional goals, and alignment with other CTE and workforce plans in the region.
- Consortia use labor market data to direct Strong Workforce funds toward one or more of ten priority industry sectors (see next page).

Priority Industry Sectors



Strong Workforce Identifies Ten Priority Industry Sectors

Ten Priority Industry Sectors



Advanced Manufacturing



Advanced Transportation and Renewables



Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies



Energy, Construction, and Utilities



Global Trade and Logistics



Health



Information and Communication Technologies



Life Sciences and Biotechnology



Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism



Small Business



Consortia Funding Amounts Based on Demographic Variables and Performance

- Originally, Strong Workforce funding was awarded to consortia based on their statewide share of three variables, with each variable accounting for 33 percent of funding: (1) CTE full-time equivalent (FTE) students, (2) unemployed adults, and (3) projected job openings over the next five years.
- Beginning in 2017-18, 33 percent is allocated based on CTE FTE students, 33 percent on unemployed adults, 17 percent on projected job openings, and 17 percent on performance in meeting regional workforce needs.



Once a Consortium's Funding Amount Is Determined, Funds Divided Between Districts and Region

- Community college districts receive 60 percent of program funds directly, with 40 percent allocated to the regional consortium. Both pots of funding are for supporting regionally prioritized initiatives aligned with Strong Workforce plans.



Consortia Report Short- and Longer-Term Outcome Data

- Consortia annually report spending and enrollment data to the Chancellor's Office.
- Consortia report longer-term data, including the number of students who got a degree or certificate and student employment outcomes, including wage gains and job placements.
- Data are disaggregated by race, gender, and age group.
- Data for each consortium are updated annually and displayed online.
- The Chancellor's Office reports certain data to the Legislature annually.

Technical Assistance



Another CCC CTE Program Provides Technical Assistance to Help Regional Consortia Work With Industry

- The CCC Economic Workforce Development program funds priority industry area experts at the Chancellor's Office (known as Sector Navigators) and at community college districts (known as Deputy Sector Navigators).
 - Of the \$23 million provided for the Economic Workforce Development program, \$17 million is used for navigators and their outreach activities.
 - Most of the remaining \$6 million is used for scaling state-approved projects across multiple regions.
 - The number and type of state-approved projects varies each year depending on navigators' labor market analysis and community colleges' interest. Projects approved in 2017-18 include the expansion of a gig economy pathway program and the expansion of a global trade mapping tool that allows colleges to see global trade transactions by company at the zip code level.
- Navigators connect community college CTE administrators and faculty with regional industry and labor leaders to help them align their CTE programs with workforce needs.