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Overview of California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program

PRESENTED TO: Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
On Education Finance
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Chair



LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Background

▶ Interest in Improving Alignment Between Training and Workforce Needs

- In 2014, the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors established the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy. The task force recommended making career technical education (CTE) course offerings more responsive to regional labor markets, among other recommendations.

▶ State Created Strong Workforce Program in 2016-17

- State created the Strong Workforce Program to improve the availability and quality of CTE programs and tighten the alignment of those programs with regional labor markets. Legislature provided \$200 million ongoing for the program beginning in 2016-17.
- State folded in a former CTE initiative in 2017-18, bringing total ongoing funding for the program to \$248 million.
- The Strong Workforce Program supplements the amount the state provides in CCC apportionment funding for CTE instruction (about \$2 billion). Strong Workforce funds are intended to support smaller class sizes for certain CTE courses, relatively expensive CTE equipment costs, and regional planning and coordination.



Key Features of Program

- ▶ **Program Emphasizes Regional Planning and Alignment**
 - Eight regional consortia of community colleges coordinate CTE activities.
 - Each consortium must collaborate with regional stakeholders (including workforce development boards, industry leaders, and local education agencies) to develop four-year plans for addressing regional workforce issues.
 - Using labor market data, each consortium is expected to channel its Strong Workforce funds to high-priority industry sectors.

- ▶ **Funding for Each Consortium Is Based on Four Factors**
 - Since 2017-18, each consortium's allocation has been based on:
 - CTE full-time equivalent students (33 percent).
 - Unemployment rate (33 percent).
 - Projected job openings (17 percent).
 - Performance in meeting workforce needs (17 percent).

- ▶ **Within Each Consortium, Funds Are Divided Between Region and Districts**
 - Consortia retain 40 percent of their allocation for regional priorities.
 - The remaining 60 percent is allocated directly to CCC districts.

