



Assembly Bill 705 (Irwin)
QUOTE SHEET

- Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (AB 705 author): *“Our current remedial education process conflicts with California’s goals for student success and wastes large amounts of human talent. AB 705 helps fix broken practices and puts into place policies guided by data and research.”*
- Sonya Christian, President of Bakersfield College: *“By honoring the work that our incoming students have already successfully completed in high school, we are saving students time, money, and financial aid eligibility; these students are now able to move forward more quickly and decisively in their programs of study.”*
- Laura Metune, Vice Chancellor of Govt Relations at the California Community College Chancellor’s Office: *“Recognizing the urgent need to improve outcomes for students enrolling in a community college, the Legislature has made significant investments in transforming basic skills education. AB 705 builds on these investments and the ongoing work of our colleges to implement reforms to assessment and placement policies, in order to improve student outcomes. This measure will provide state-level guidance regarding a vital policy area that directly affects student success rates.”*
- Leadership Team of the Los Angeles Regional Coalition for Linked Learning: *“Research tells us that students are up to the challenge of college-level work and are not nearly as “unprepared” as we have believed. Colleges across the state are proving that students can be successful when allowed to bypass remedial courses and begin directly at the college level. However, most students are still stuck in traditional remediation with little hope of completing college. AB 705 ensures that remediation policies do not make capable students less likely to reach their college dreams. For the above reasons, we strongly support AB 705.”*
- David Rattray, Executive Vice President of the LA Area Chamber of Commerce: *“At a time when our state must accelerate credential and degree completion in order to meet future workforce demands, the value of a postsecondary degree cannot be understated. Students who complete an associate degree from a California community college more than double their annual pre-degree earnings after two years in the workforce and the value of a bachelor degree continues to increase as workforce demands require higher levels of education and training. On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, our members, and the local business community, I am pleased to lend our strong support for Assembly Bill 705.”*
- Katie Hern, Executive Director of the California Acceleration Project: *“Remedial courses were originally developed to help students succeed in college. But if placement into remediation leaves students worse off, we’re clearly not operating in their best interests. At colleges that have already made these changes, students are proving that they’re a lot more ready for college than previously believed.”*



- Andres Salazar, Student, College of the Canyons: *“I’m so grateful that I didn’t get trapped in remedial courses I didn’t need. I got an A in College Statistics, and now I am on my way to earning a degree in piano performance and becoming an instrumental conductor. Every student deserves this kind of opportunity.”*
- Benjamin Duran, Executive Director, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium: *“On behalf of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, I want to thank Governor Brown for signing this piece of historic legislation. The implementation of AB 705 will go a long way in breaking the logjam of students piled up against the gate courses barrier that has kept many students from advancing towards a degree in a timely manner. This is a significant step forward for California community colleges.”*
- Estela Mara Bensimon, Professor and Director, Center for Urban Education: *“Long sequences of remedial education courses have for far too long derailed the higher education dreams of minoritized students, foremost among them Latinos and Latinas and African Americans. For too many years students have been sentenced into no-exit remedial education sequences by placements tests whose educational validity has been long in doubt. Assembly Bill 705 will save thousands of students from the frustrations of misplacement into remedial courses. AB 705 breaks a long cycle of unjust educational practice.”*
- Ryan J. Smith, Executive Director, The Education Trust–West: *“California’s community colleges are full of dedicated, capable students who too often end up stuck in a system that does not give them the opportunity to climb the ladder. AB 705 will ensure that more community college students – the majority of whom are students of color - are able to access the credit-bearing courses they need to be successful in college and earn a certificate or degree.”*
- Elise Buik, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Los Angeles: *“College completion is the final step for many of our young people before entering the workforce. By allowing more community college students to enroll into college-level classes, the state has removed an enormous roadblock for students forging their own pathway out of poverty. We applaud the state for finding a new solution to ineffective remedial placement tests and look forward to continuing the advancement of equal opportunities for all students.”*
- Eloy Ortiz Oakley, California Community Colleges Chancellor: *“This is a win-win for our students, colleges and the state’s taxpayers. Requiring unnecessary remediation courses can have severely damaging consequences. It’s clear that the use of traditional assessment skills tests as the main variable in placing students in math and English courses does not work. Many of our colleges have started using a student’s high school coursework and GPA as the primary determining factors for placement. Research shows high school performance is a more accurate predictor of college readiness than assessment tests – even for students who do not enroll directly in college from high school.*

AB 705 calls on our system to engage in statewide reforms that will provide every student with a strong start on their way to earning a degree, certificate or transferring to a university. Currently, too many of our students are stuck in courses that do not count toward their



educational goals and cost them valuable time and money. I applaud the governor for signing this bill that establishes a stronger assessment process and will ultimately lead to a dramatic improvement in our student completion rates. This is an important milestone in the drive to improve student success and the first of several steps our system is taking to put students at the center of all policy discussions because they come with different circumstances and we need to be able to adapt to meet their needs.”