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Governor Gavin Newsom Signs Package of Historic Bills to Transform Community College Transfer
New laws —AB 928 & AB 1111— will streamline the transfer process for millions of California students

Today, Governor Gavin Newsom signed critical legislation—Assembly Bill 928 and Assembly Bill 1111—that will fundamentally transform the way community college students transfer to a university in California. Authored by higher education and student champion Assemblymember Marc Berman, these ambitious policies were sponsored by the Campaign for College Opportunity and supported by a courageous group of stakeholders including co-sponsor Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, and the California State University (CSU) and student leaders from the CSU, University of California (UC), and community colleges.

AB 928 creates a general education transfer pathway for students to become eligible to the UC and CSU; establishes a committee representing K-12 schools, community colleges and public and private universities dedicated to simplifying transfer; and places community college students onto the Associate Degree for Transfer pathway to increase their likelihood of transferring successfully. AB 1111 requires the 116 community colleges to adopt a common course numbering system that would be accessible and easy to understand for students.

Together, these student-centered bills address the dismal community college transfer rates that have persisted for decades; less than 3% of students transfer after two years and less than half after six years. This historic legislation tackles transfer inequities head-on by increasing collaboration between our state public colleges and universities and eliminating unnecessary hurdles that have kept students from reaching their transfer goals.

“We’re turning commitments into reality by ensuring that our students have more access to high-quality educational opportunities, creating a change of course for generations to come and bolstering California’s innovation economy,” said Governor Newsom on the seven higher education bills he signed today. “Californians have thrived at our world class universities for decades, but not everyone has had similar access – today that’s changing. Everyone deserves a shot at the ‘California Dream’ – we’re eliminating equity gaps and increasing opportunities at our universities to make those dreams a reality for more California students.”

“Over the last five years I’ve held hearings across California to discuss higher education issues,” said Assemblymember Marc Berman, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education in California. “When students discussed their experience with the transfer process from community college to four-year university their message was loud and clear: transfer is too complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate. Instead of being a clear path, it’s a maze, and it’s costing students time and money that they can’t afford. Together, Assembly Bills 928 and 1111 will make it easier for students to achieve their educational goals. I am grateful that Governor Newsom signed these historic bills, and for the advocates and students who inspired these reforms.”

“California continues to lead the way in creating an equitable path to a bachelor’s degree for millions of students across the state. AB 928 builds on the work I envisioned ten years ago, working with the Campaign for College Opportunity, students, civil rights and business leaders in creating the Associate Degree for Transfer to help support and streamline the process for community college students to transfer to a university. I applaud Assemblymember Berman, the California state legislature and Governor Newsom for continuing this critical work to ensure our students are prepared for success and ready to meet future workforce needs.” – U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.)

“For the millions of community college students in California who dream of attending a university, today's action ensures that dreams can become a reality. Fixing transfer is one of the most significant ways to improve student success, close racial equity gaps in higher education, and ensure our state can meet future workforce needs,” said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity. “We thank Governor Newsom for his commitment and bold action to strengthen higher education in California. The unwavering leadership of Assemblymember Marc Berman, Lt. Governor Kounalakis, and the legislature should be celebrated as they work towards fixing transfer so that more community colleges have a clear path into our universities.”

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The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit www.CollegeCampaign.org/[Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow @CollegeOpp on Twitter and Instagram.