

[INSERT ORG LETTERHEAD HERE]

[DATE]

The Honorable Connie Leyva
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SUPPORT AB 1705 (Irwin) Strengthening Equitable Placement and Completion at Community Colleges

Dear Chair Leyva,

[INSERT ORG NAME] is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1705 by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin. This bill would remove barriers to certificate and degree completion by ending lengthy remedial sequences and placing students directly into transfer-level English and math coursework that is appropriate to their pathway, while also coupling these courses with co-requisite supports, as needed, to enable student success.

[INSERT DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ORG]

Prior to AB 705, 80% of incoming community college students were denied access to transfer-level English and math courses and were required to take remedial courses. Remedial courses do not provide credit units toward a bachelor's degree, therefore costing students time and money. Over past years, millions of students have been excluded from transfer-level courses in which they could have been successful with the proper guidance and support, and disproportionately impacting students of color. AB 705 law requires the state's community colleges to recognize high school coursework instead of relying on inequitable placement tests, and to place students into English and math classes with appropriate supports, leading them to have the greatest opportunity to make progress toward a college degree.

AB 705 studies have shown improved student outcomes and increases in student completion. In the first year of implementation alone, AB 705 enabled tens of thousands of additional students to enter and successfully complete transfer-level English and math. However, implementation of AB 705 has been uneven across the community college system, and a substantial number of students are still being encouraged to enroll in below-transfer courses, despite evidence suggesting that doing so dramatically reduces their likelihood of program completion. Particularly, students of color disproportionately attend colleges that maintained large remedial offerings, driving ongoing racial inequities in completion ([“Still Getting There”](#)).

AB 1705 builds upon the historic AB 705 law by closing loopholes in implementation and ensures all students have the best opportunity to advance in their education and workforce journey by:

- Making clear that colleges must enroll students in math and English classes where they have the greatest likelihood of completing a degree and transfer requirements.
- Clarify that colleges should not require students to repeat math and English classes they passed in high school.
- Provide greater protections to ensure that students are not required to take extra math and English courses that do not count towards their degree requirements.
- Exempts career tech education students whose programs do not require math or English, therefore not adding additional requirements where they do not exist.
- Clarify that it is the responsibility of colleges to ensure that students have supports that help them make progress toward their goals.

Equitable placement and completion reform at community colleges have produced unprecedented gains for students. This policy is a critical lever in meeting the education and workforce goals of the state by removing barriers and opening pathways toward economic mobility for all Californians.

For these reasons, **[organization's name]** urges your support for AB 1705.

If you have any questions, please contact **[Name]** at **[email]** or **[phone number]**.

Sincerely,

[Insert signature]

[Name]

[Title]

Cc: Members of the Senate Education Committee
Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, 44th District