

# Senator Alex Padilla

## Fact Sheet



### **SB 1440 – PADILLA** **Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act**

#### **Principal Co-Authors**

Speaker John Pérez, Assembly Members Paul Fong, Jim Beall, & Sam Blakeslee,  
Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, Senator Gloria Romero

#### **Co-Authors**

Senators Roy Ashburn, Gilbert Cedillo, Lou Correa, Dave Cox, Bill Emmerson, Loni Hancock, Bob Huff, Carol Liu, Alan Lowenthal, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Fran Pavley, Curren Price, Audra Strickland, and Mark Wyland & Assembly Members Juan Arambula, Marty Block, Steven Bradford, Julia Brownley, Wilmer Amina Carter, Wesley Chesbro, Connie Conway, Mike Davis, Noreen Evans, Felipe Fuentes, Warren Furutani, Ted Gaines, Isadore Hall, Alyson Huber, Bonnie Lowenthal, Fiona Ma, Tony Mendoza, Bill Monning, Jim Nielsen, V. Manuel Perez, Anthony Portantino, Ira Ruskin, Jim Silva, Cameron Smyth, Sandré Swanson, and Tom Torlakson

#### **Summary**

SB 1440, The Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act, would increase the number of students who successfully transfer from California Community Colleges (CCC) to the California State University system by establishing transfer degrees. Those who earn the new transfer degree would be guaranteed admission to the California State University (CSU) with junior status. Clarifying and streamlining the process would result in students graduating more quickly allowing community colleges and the CSU to serve more students.

#### **Background**

California's economy is directly dependent on our highly trained and educated workforce. Due to the impending retirement of a generation of baby boomers California faces a looming workforce shortage in job sectors requiring a bachelor's degree and above.

As many as 100,000 state employees will be eligible to retire in the next five years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 43% of the U.S. private labor force is also eligible to retire between 2004 and 2012.

In addition, eight of the top ten fastest growing occupations require postsecondary education and six require a bachelor's degree.

Since the adoption of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university has been a core function of the CCC system. In fact 73% of college students attend community colleges. However, only 25% of those who intend to transfer to four-year universities actually do.

A key barrier to student transfer is the inconsistent, duplicative and ever-changing coursework requirements that students face. These barriers frustrate and discourage students and add expense to students and inefficiency to the college system.

A study by the CCC Chancellor's Office reports that the average transfer student completes 80 semester units of coursework when only 60 are required. The problem continues after they transfer. At the CSU, transfer students are taking excess units due to duplicative degree requirements and course credits that did not transfer from community college.

Arizona, Florida, North Carolina and Oregon have each created transfer degree programs that help students transfer seamlessly. As a result, more students successfully transfer to a 4-year university and earn a bachelor's degree in less time, allowing them to enter the job market more quickly. The money saved allows the higher education system to serve more students.

### Existing Law

The coursework necessary to transfer to the CSU or the University of California can vary widely from campus to campus. Students seeking to transfer are frustrated and discouraged by conflicting and duplicative requirements. Students planning on applying to several CSU campuses for the same major may need to have completed different prerequisites to attend each institution. Many students are unable to effectively qualify for more than one transfer option.

Existing law does not require alignment between the CCC and universities. The resulting confusion surrounding transfer requirements delays degree attainment, increases costs, and reduces access for additional students seeking admission.

### This Bill

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act would do the following:

- Mandates that CCCs create AA degrees for transfer to a CSU with areas of emphasis.

- Guarantees that students who earn the transfer degree are admitted to the CSU with upper division junior status.
- Precludes CCCs from requiring additional courses for this degree.
- Assures that transfer students will graduate with a bachelor's degree with 120 semester units or 180 quarter units, with the exception of certain majors.

### Support

Campaign for College Opportunity (Co-Sponsor)  
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Co-Sponsor)  
California State University (Co-Sponsor)  
Student Senate for California Community Colleges (Co-Sponsor)  
California Student Senate Association (Co-Sponsor)  
A Place Called Home  
Advancement Project  
Alliance for a Better Community  
Associated Students Incorporated  
Bakersfield College  
Bay Area Council  
Cabrillo College  
California Business for Education Excellence  
California Business Roundtable  
California Catholic Conference  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Communities United Institute  
California Postsecondary Education Commission  
California State University, Monterey Bay  
Californians for Justice  
Central City Neighborhood Partners  
Cerritos Community College District  
Chicano Latino Intersegmental Convocation (CLIC)  
Citrus College  
City of Bell Gardens  
Coastline Community College  
College of Marin  
College of the Canyons  
College of the Desert  
College of the Sequoias

College OPTIONS  
College Summit  
Community Coalition  
Community College League of California  
Compton Community College District  
Contra Costa Community College District  
Diablo Valley College  
Ed Voice  
Education Trust West  
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges  
Families in Schools  
Gay-Straight Alliance Network  
Girls, Inc. of Orange County  
Glendale Community College  
Glendora Chamber of Commerce  
Governmental Solutions Group, LLC  
GreenDot Public Schools  
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District  
Hartnell College  
Hispanas Organizing for Political Equality (HOPE)  
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU)  
Hispanic Scholarship Fund  
Imperial Valley Community College District  
InnerCity Struggle  
Justice Matters  
K-16 Bridge Program  
Kern Community College District  
Latin Business Association  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Long Beach City College  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Los Angeles Mission College  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Los Rios Community College District  
MiraCosta Community College  
Mt. San Antonio College  
California State National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
National Council of La Raza  
North Bay Leadership Council  
Orange County Business Council  
Organization of Farmworker Women Leaders

Parents Investing for a Quality Education (PIQE) Statewide  
Pasadena City College  
Pierce College  
PolicyLink  
Progressive Christians Uniting  
Project Grad  
Public Advocates  
Rancho Santiago Community College District  
Rio Hondo College  
Riverside Community College District  
San Bernardino Community College District  
San Diego Community College District  
San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Southern California College Access Network (SoCal CAN)  
Southwestern College  
Stanislaus County Office of Education  
SunGard Higher Education  
The Greenlining Institute  
The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS)  
The Women's Foundation of California  
University of California  
University of Southern California, Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice  
Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA)  
West Valley Mission Community College District  
Yosemite Community College District  
Youth Policy Institute  
Yuba Community College District