



ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOAQUIN ARAMBULA, M.D. 31ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB 79: Student Resource Networks

Summary

Students should be supported by social services tailored to their unique needs. AB 79 establishes a statewide knowledge sharing network of basic needs coordinators and county liaisons of higher education.

Background

In 2023, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) documented increased levels of food and housing insecurity among California's college students, with disproportionate impacts on low-income students, students of color, and adult learners.¹ Compounding these challenges is that students have unique conditions like financial aid or new addresses that make navigating the complex eligibility requirements of public assistance programs incredibly challenging.

In response, the state now requires every county to appoint at least one employee to serve as a county liaison of higher education. This person is responsible for connecting on-campus basic needs coordinators with resources to better assist students with accessing county-administered services such as CalFresh and CalWORKs.

Unfortunately, glaring inconsistency across counties in how support is delivered to students still exists. Some students in desperate need of food or financial assistance continue struggling while in a neighboring county a similar student is getting support that might make the difference between staying in school and dropping out. While the Department of Social Services recently released an All County Information Notice on student eligibility in an attempt to help to standardize student support across the state, it isn't sufficient to address the ongoing systemic challenges facing students.²

¹ [CSAC Food and Housing Insecurity](#)

Related Legislation

AB 1326 (Arambula, 2021) requires every county to appoint at least one employee to serve as a county liaison of higher education. The recommendations from December 2024's report on the implementation of AB 1326 demonstrate there is strong demand for regular meetings and coordination between all stakeholders to ensure that all students receive support.

This Bill

Requires the California Department of Social Services to update regulations based on the findings and recommendations outlined in the AB 1326 report.

Support

California Association of Food Banks (Sponsor)
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization (Sponsor)
Center for Healthy Communities (Sponsor)
UAspire (Sponsor)
Michelson Center for Public Policy (Sponsor)
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County
GLIDE
Community Action Partnership of Orange County
Student Homes Coalition
Schoolhouse Connection
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
San Francisco Rising
San Diego Hunger Coalition
Public Advocates Inc
LA Regional Food Bank
Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Central California Food Bank
Youth Leadership Institute
University of California

² [ACIN I-85-22](#)



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