



FACT SHEET

AB 1096 (Mike Fong)
As Amended July 3, 2023

SUMMARY

AB 1096 authorizes California Community Colleges to offer courses taught in languages other than English without requiring students to enroll in an English as a Second Language (ESL) course.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office made a determination that instruction may be offered in a language other than English as long as students are also concurrently enrolled in an English as a Second Language (ESL) class.

According to the 2020 United States Census, 26.6% of California residents were born outside of the United States.

NEED FOR THE BILL

In 2022, the Los Angeles Community College District conducted a survey of 1,500 Los Angeles County residents in both English and Spanish. The survey found that 57% of the responding residents and 60% of the responding community college students speak a language other than English at home. Forty-three percent of all residents, 71% of current students, and 63% of prospective students expressed interest in taking in-language community college, vocational, or adult-learning courses.

Community colleges currently offer noncredit courses in languages other than

English; however, students enrolled in those courses are required to enroll in a concurrent ESL course. This requirement creates a barrier for many students, restricting their access to higher education.

SOLUTION

In recognition of the need to "meet students where they are" as they pursue higher education, AB 1096 clarifies that community colleges may offer courses taught in languages other than English.

Allowing students to enroll in courses other than English benefits the following types of students:

- Students who are monolingual and wish to advance their education in their native language
- Students who wish to upskill and earn a certificate for immediate entry into the workforce
- Students who have degrees in their country of origin and wish to advance their career or gain additional knowledge in their profession, and
- English-speaking students who would like to take courses in a second language to improve their skill set and advance their upward mobility or strengthen their employability and chosen careers.

The availability of these classes would provide additional opportunities for community college students who speak native languages as well as for English-



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speaking students who wish to take courses in a second language for job mobility or advancement.

SUPPORT

Los Angeles Community College District
(sponsor)
Alliance for a Better Community
Armenian National Committee of America –
Western Region
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-
Southern California
Association of Community and Continuing
Education
AAPI Equity Alliance
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
CA Association for Bilingual Education
CA Association of Latino Community College
Trustees and Administrators
CA Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
CA League of United Latin American Citizens
CA Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
Chinatown Service Center
Cerritos College
Citrus College
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Coast Community College District
College of the Desert
College of San Mateo
Community College League of CA, Asian
Pacific Islander Trustee and
Administrators Caucus
Communities in Schools of Los Angeles
El Camino Community College District
Faculty Association of California Community
Colleges
Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Gavilan College
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College
District

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Korean American Family Services
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Long Beach Community College District
Los Angeles Community College Academic
Senate
Los Angeles Faculty Guild, Local 1521
Los Angeles Pierce College
Los Angeles Southwest College
Los Angeles Unified School District
Loyola Marymount University
Michelson Center for Public Policy
Monterey Peninsula College
Mt. San Antonio College
Pasadena City College
Peralta Federation of Teachers
Puente Learning Center
Redwoods Community College District
Rio Hondo College
Riverside City College
Salvadoran-American Leadership and
Educational Fund
San Diego Community College District
San Jose-Evergreen Community College
District
San Joaquin Delta Community College
Southwestern Community College District
UNITE-LA
West Hills Community College District

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