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AB-3131 Strong Workforce Program: applicants receiving equity multiplier funding. (2023-2024)

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Assembly Bill No. 3131

CHAPTER 434

An act to amend Section 88830 of the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

[Approved by Governor September 22, 2024. Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 2024.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3131, McCarty. Strong Workforce Program: applicants receiving equity multiplier funding.

Existing law, commencing with the 2023–24 fiscal year, appropriates \$300,000,000 each fiscal year from the General Fund to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for allocation for the Local Control Funding Formula Equity Multiplier apportionment, as provided. Existing law requires the funding to be allocated to eligible local educational agencies that generate a specified local control funding formula entitlement based on, among other things, the percentage of unduplicated pupils served.

Existing law establishes the Strong Workforce Program to provide funding to career technical education regional consortia made up of community college districts and local educational agencies, as specified. Existing law also establishes a K–12 component of the Strong Workforce Program. Existing law provides that, commencing with the 2018–19 fiscal year, the amount appropriated in the annual Budget Act for the K–12 component of the program is used to create, support, or expand high-quality career technical education programs at the K–12 level that are aligned with the workforce development efforts occurring through the program. Existing law requires each consortium to form a K–12 Selection Committee, as specified, for purposes of awarding grants under the K–12 component of the program and requires that applicants with certain characteristics be given positive consideration, as specified.

This bill would require positive consideration for purposes of awarding grants under the K–12 component of the program to also be given to applicants that serve pupils enrolled at local educational agencies receiving Local Control Funding Formula Equity Multiplier funding.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 88830 of the Education Code is amended to read:

88830. (a) When determining grant recipients under the K–12 component of the Strong Workforce Program, the K–12 Selection Committee shall consider past performance of grantees before awarding additional funds to those reapplying for grants.

(b) (1) The K–12 Selection Committee shall give positive consideration to each of the following characteristics in an applicant:

(A) Aligned programs serving unduplicated pupils, as defined in Section 42238.02.

(B) Programs that the K–12 Selection Committee, in consultation with the consortium, determines most effectively meet the needs of the local and regional economies.

(C) Programs serving pupil subgroups that have higher than average dropout rates, as identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(D) Programs located in an area of the state with a high unemployment rate.

(E) Programs serving pupils enrolled at a local educational agency receiving Local Control Funding Formula Equity Multiplier funding pursuant to Section 42238.024, as identified through the stability rate data file produced by the State Department of Education in the prior fiscal year.

(2) When determining grant recipients, the K–12 Selection Committee shall give greatest weight to the applicant characteristics included in this subdivision.

(c) The K–12 Selection Committee shall also give positive consideration to programs to the extent they do any of the following:

(1) Successfully leverage one or both of the following:

(A) Existing structures, requirements, and resources of the federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) (Public Law 115-224), the California Partnership Academies pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 54690) of Chapter 9 of Part 29 of Division 4 of Title 2, or the Agricultural Career Technical Education Incentive Program pursuant to Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 52460) of Chapter 9 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2.

(B) Contributions from industry, labor, and philanthropic sources.

(2) Make significant investments in career technical education infrastructure, equipment, and facilities.

(3) Operate within rural school districts.