

The California STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS INITIATIVE



Imagine if you were only allowed to shop in your own town and were prevented from shopping in another town or online.

This is exactly how we restrict educational choices for California students and it's not working.



WHAT IS IT?

The California Student Bill of Rights Initiative is proposed for the November 2012 ballot. It gives every student unrestricted access to a high-quality education, including access to online learning opportunities and digital devices and materials. These will be available both within and outside of the students' school or school district of record, especially for such coursework as is required for admission to California colleges and universities.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The California Student Bill of Rights Initiative:

- Provides students with unrestricted access to courses required for admission to the state's universities, in the classroom and online
- Allows students to take online courses offered by any school district regardless of student residence
- Requires online courses to be taught by credentialed teachers and approved by the University of California
- Creates a California Diploma, which certifies to higher education, employers and the government that the student has passed all courses required for admission to the University of California and the California State University
- Allows students to accelerate and/or customize their education
- Potentially saves local school districts "hundreds of millions of dollars annually"*
- "Could also reduce long-term demand for school construction funding"*

* Source: California Legislative Analyst

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

One million high school students in California attend schools that do not offer enough of the courses required for entrance to the state's universities and colleges.



Existing California law creates barriers to prevent students from taking courses outside of their districts, including online courses. The California Student Bill of Rights Initiative removes these barriers.



Our failing public schools are stuck in the 19th century. We must give our students the tools to become leaders in the 21st century and beyond.



DID YOU KNOW?

- *More than one million students attend schools that do not offer sufficient courses for UC and CSU admission.*
- In community colleges, 90% of incoming students require remediation - learning again what they should have learned in middle or high school. Remediation costs the state billions of dollars each year.
- Students are more likely to drop out of college if they require remediation. In community colleges, almost 53% of students do not earn degrees.
- *Students in urban areas drop out of high school at rates near 50%.*
- About 1 in 5 high school graduates do not meet the minimum academic standard to enlist in the US Army.
- By 2025, 41% of jobs in California will require at least a college degree, but only 35% of residents will have one.
- Employers routinely look for employees from other countries to fill the California education gap.



Paid for by the California Student Bill of Rights Committee, a project of Education Forward

3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1290
Los Angeles, CA 90010

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is behind this initiative?

The California Student Bill of Rights Initiative is a project of Education Forward, a non-profit organization. The initiative authors include distinguished experts in public education, school administration and education technology.

Will this initiative increase taxes?

No. There are no new taxes or tax increases in this initiative. In fact, according to the official analysis by the California Legislative Analyst, local school districts have the potential to save “hundreds of millions of dollars annually” if this initiative passes.

Will the initiative create any other savings for our schools?

Yes. According to the official analysis by the California Legislative Analyst, “the measure also could reduce the long term demand for school construction funding.”

How does a student enroll in an online course while simultaneously enrolled in their home school or school district? How is ADA (average daily attendance) funding allocated?

The California Student Bill of Rights Initiative directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Department of Finance to determine the process for allocating ADA to multiple institutions in cases where a student is unable to obtain access to the appropriate course in his or her home school or district. In those cases, the ADA would be split proportionally according to the number of courses taken within each institution.

Will this initiative create a “voucher system” or transfer public funding to private and religious schools?

No. This initiative keeps all public funding within the public school system.

Will the initiative require cash-strapped school districts to spend money for online classes?

No. Just the opposite. This initiative allows any school district throughout the state to offer online courses and receive a portion of students’ current average daily attendance funding from the state. While no district is required to offer online courses, students may take these courses from any district, accredited online school, or approved online provider that offers them.

How can we be sure that the courses that are offered online and paid for with public funds will meet high quality standards?

Courses must be approved by school districts, and high school courses must meet quality criteria established by the University of California. All teachers of blended-learning and online courses must hold the appropriate California teaching credentials, and school programs must be accredited in the same manner as all California high schools.

Will parents be required to give permission before a student can enroll in an online class?

Yes. Online courses are voluntary and parental consent is required prior to enrollment.

How will students who do not have a computer at home be able to access online courses?

The initiative allows school districts to use current instructional materials funding to provide access to computers, tablets and other digital devices to students who do not have access to them at home.

How can I get involved?

Go to www.EducationForward.org to order a petition, make a contribution and endorse the initiative.

You can also request info by email: Alia@EducationForward.org