



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

AB 2920 –Inclusive Higher Education Act

Summary

AB 2920 will provide inclusive college programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at public four-year universities. It will establish a pilot grant program to ensure sustainable funding. This will allow California to continue to be a leader in creating higher education opportunities for students with disabilities.

Background

California has long recognized the importance of addressing the educational needs of youth with disabilities. This benefits, not only the individual immersed in the classroom setting, but also the campus community around them. Colleges should continue to expand the inclusion of students with disabilities into their academic environment.

Students enrolled in an inclusive higher education program take foundational courses created for the program and academic courses in their area(s) of interest. They develop independent living and communication skills while living in the dorms with other first-year students. In addition, these programs can provide the students with internship and employment opportunities on campus to create a path toward future employment.

While inclusive higher education programs are established across the state, the first four-year program in California is the UC Davis Redwood SEED Scholars Program,¹ which is dedicated to fully including students with intellectual disabilities in a college setting. It is a collaborative effort between UC Davis and the UC Davis MIND Institute through the UC Davis Health System. The first cohort of students began last fall.

Some California colleges have taken advantage of available federal funding through the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPISD)² grant. However, the state would

benefit students in these programs by offering a complementary sustainable funding source. California has an opportunity to support the goals of these programs by facilitating their expansion into more public universities that offer a four-year curriculum.

Current Law

The Higher Education Opportunity Act allowed the U.S. Department of Education to provide grants to create or expand inclusive post-secondary education through the Model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary

Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID). These federal grants enable campuses to create or expand high quality, inclusive model comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

This bill

AB 2920:

- 1) Creates a grant program to establish or expand existing inclusive college programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at public four-year universities;
- 2) Describes program expectations of offering inclusion into academic courses, campus activities, as well as student housing.

Support

The Arc/ UCP CA Collaboration (Co-sponsor)
California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition
Disability Rights California (Co-Sponsor)
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Down Syndrome Connections of the Bay Area
Inclusive College Alliance (Co-sponsor)
State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Co-sponsor)
Supporting Inclusive Practices
WeBelong:805

¹ [“UC Davis Introduces the Redwood SEED Scholars: First-in-California College Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities.” Marianne Russ Sharp. January 31, 2022.](#)

² [U.S. Department of Education: TPSID grants](#)



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For More Information

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