

## EDGE Policy Update

July 2021

July 14<sup>th</sup> was the last day for all bill measures to be heard in their respective policy committees. Various measures continue to move forward ranging from issues on broadband access, financial aid reform, and workforce development strategies – all intended to boost California's economy and support working families, businesses, students paid low wages, and adult learners. The Legislature adjourned for their month-long summer recess on July 16<sup>th</sup> and will return on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Upon the Legislature's return, fiscal committees will meet to hold the Suspense Hearing to determine the fate of all remaining bills, before shifting to floor sessions only. The end of session deadline is September 10<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the policy hearings, Governor Newsom signed the [2021-22 State Budget Act](#), a historic \$262.6 billion spending plan that will support California's working families, businesses, and the economy. We are excited to see significant investments made in the areas of workforce development, student financial aid, child care services, career tech education programs, and maintaining investments for the creation of the Cradle-to-Career data system – all budget priorities that EDGE has strongly advocated for. Read more in our budget overview [here](#).

As the 2021 legislative session continues to prove extremely busy with numerous policy and budget proposals seeking to respond to COVID-19 impacts and prioritize economic recovery strategies, several measures EDGE is tracking continue to make their way through the legislative process. EDGE is committed to pandemic response and recovery efforts that will advance policies to support our business community, dislocated workers in low-wage occupations, provide stable resources to our community colleges, invest in support services for students and adult learners, and expand training opportunities for California's most underserved populations - all while prioritizing racial and economic equity.

Highlighted below are several bills that EDGE has taken positions on thus far. This list will be updated as pending legislation is analyzed. For more information about EDGE's positions and efforts, please contact Anna Alvarado, Policy Director, at [aalvarado@caedge.org](mailto:aalvarado@caedge.org).

## EDGE Priority Bills

### [AB 99 \(Irwin\)](#) California Cradle-to-Career Data System.

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would implement the recommendations of the CA Cradle-to-Career Data System Legislative Report, which describes the planning process and recommendations for phase one of the Cradle-to-Career Data System. The bill would set the vision, mission, and strategic objectives of the data system.

**Status:** 2-Year Bill – implemented in the budget.

### [AB 106 \(Salas\)](#) Regions Rise Grant Program.

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would establish the Regions Rise Grant Program within GO-Biz to support regional innovative strategies to address housing, homelessness, workforce, sustainability, and public health. The state program intends to provide competitive grants for multijurisdictional collectives that involve local and regional governments, labor, community-based organizations, and private and civic organizations covering locally-defined economic regions, to adopt a comprehensive shared prosperity strategy focused on the priority challenges of the respective region.

**Status:** 2-Year Bill – implemented in the budget.

### [AB 221 \(Santiago\)](#) Emergency food assistance.

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide food assistance benefits statewide to low-income Californians, regardless of immigration status; contract with certain entities to issue the food assistance benefits; and conduct a study to provide recommendations to a permanent food assistance program for low-income California residents experiencing food insecurity, regardless of immigration status.

**Status:** Pending in Senate Appropriations Suspense File

### [AB 417 \(McCarty\)](#) Rising Scholars Network: justice-involved students.

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would authorize the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges to establish the Rising Scholars Network program to enter into agreements with up to 50 community colleges to provide support services funding for justice-involved students.

**Status:** Pending in Senate Appropriations Suspense File

### [AB 628 \(E.Garcia\)](#) Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative.

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would build upon the Breaking Barriers to Employment legislation by assisting individuals in obtaining the skills necessary to prepare for work in high-demand industries identified in local and regional workforce development plans and targets individuals who face systemic barriers to employment. The bill expands access and eligibility for community-based

organizations to supply training and support services, and refocuses equity and access as priority measures of program success.

**Status:** Pending in Senate Appropriations Suspense File

**[AB 1036 \(E. Garcia\)](#) CA Manufacturing Emergency Preparedness Act of 2021.**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would enact the CA Manufacturing Emergency Preparedness Act of 2021, which would authorize I-Bank to establish the Manufacturing Disaster Loan Program for the purpose of attracting, retaining, retooling, and expanding manufacturing capacity in the state. Specifically, the loan program would need to meet certain objectives, including the protection and enhancement of the state's long-term manufacturing capacity, and support quality jobs that provide high wages, including benefits.

**Status:** Pending in Senate Appropriations Suspense File

**[AB 1456 \(Medina\)](#) Student financial aid: Cal Grant Reform Act.**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would enact the Cal Grant Reform Act, which would revise and recast the provisions establishing and governing the existing Cal Grant programs and the Middle Class Scholarship Program into a new Cal Grant Program. The new Cal Grant Program seeks to remove barriers to access financial aid, considers the total costs of attendance in award amounts, and will be based on student need.

**Status:** Pending in Senate Appropriations Suspense File

**[SB 4 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Broadband for All Act.**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would secure ongoing funding and implement a number of critically needed reforms to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). These changes will help close the digital divide and meet the connectivity needs of Californians, both during this unprecedented pandemic and for decades to come.

**Status:** Pending in Assembly Appropriations Suspense File

**[SB 28 \(Caballero\)](#) Rural Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Video Competition Reform Act**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would require a collaboration of state departments to compile an inventory and identify all state resources that may be available for use in the deployment of broadband networks in rural, unserved, and underserved communities.

**Status:** Pending in Assembly Appropriations Suspense File

**[SB 464 \(Hurtado\)](#) California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would make undocumented immigrants eligible for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) if they satisfy all eligibility criteria for participation in CalFresh.

**Status:** Pending in Assembly Appropriations Suspense File

**SB 609 (Hurtado) CalFresh.**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would expand the CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) program by including individuals participating in adult education and career tech education programs. It would also expand the definition of a "participant who faces multiple barriers to employment" to, an individual who lost employment as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including lost employment due to a layoff, illness, or caregiving responsibility.

**Status:** Pending in Assembly Appropriations Suspense File

**SB 753 (Roth) California Workforce Development Board: program outcomes.**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** Would require the CWDB to evaluate program outcomes for all grant programs it administers, including program participant outcomes, regardless of funding source. SB 753 also requires EDD to permit the use of wage data with the CWDB in order to assist the board in its obligation to evaluate program outcomes for the grant programs it administers.

**Status:** Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee

**SCR 25 (Hurtado) Adult Education Week.**

**Position:** Support

**Summary:** This resolution proclaims the week of April 18 to April 24, 2021 as Adult Education Week - honoring the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs statewide for their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments.

**Status:** Chaptered.