

**2014-15 Budget Act**  
**Awards for Innovation in Higher Education**

*Language Included in Item 6910-101-0001 of Section 2.00  
of the Budget Act of 2014 (Senate Bill No. 852, Leno)*  
*Full Text Available at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>*

6910-101-0001—For local assistance, Awards for Innovation in Higher Education ..... 50,000,000

Provisions:

1. The funds appropriated in this item shall be for support of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education program.
2. The program recognizes California community colleges, California State University campuses, and University of California campuses that change existing policies, practices, or systems to achieve the following priorities:
  - (a) Significantly increase the number of bachelor's degrees awarded.
  - (b) Allow students to complete bachelor's degrees within four years after beginning higher education.
  - (c) Ease transfer through the state's education system by better recognizing learning that occurs across the state's education segments and elsewhere.
3. Any California community college, California State University campus, or University of California campus may submit, individually or as part of a group, an application for an award to the Director of Finance until January 9, 2015.
4. The application shall, at a minimum, include all of the following:
  - (a) A description of how the campus or group is advancing the priorities identified in Provision 2.
  - (b) A description of changes to policies, practices, or systems made on or after January 10, 2014.

- (c) A description of changes to policies, practices, or systems the campus or group plans to make.
  - (d) A calculation of the impact on the number of bachelor's degrees awarded and the time it takes students to complete bachelor's degrees as a result of these changes, by academic year, though the 2018–19 academic year.
  - (e) A calculation of the impact to the costs to award a single bachelor's degree as a result of these changes.
  - (f) Evidence that the campus or group can sustain these changes over the long-term.
5. A committee shall be convened by the Director of Finance only as necessary to award funds appropriated in this item. The committee shall consist of the following members:
- (a) The Director of Finance or his or her designee, either of whom shall serve as the chairperson of the committee.
  - (b) A member of the State Board of Education selected by the Governor.
  - (c) A member of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges selected by the Governor.
  - (d) A trustee of the California State University selected by the Governor.
  - (e) A regent of the University of California selected by the Governor.
  - (f) An appointee of the Senate Committee on Rules.
  - (g) An appointee of the Speaker of the Assembly.
6. The committee shall select which campuses or groups receive awards and determine the amount of funds included in each of those awards based on the extent to which the changes described in their applications address the following criteria:

- (a) Credibly achieve the priorities identified in Provision 2 at a lower cost than existing policies, practices, and systems, without requiring that students pay increased tuition or fees.
  - (b) Involve broad participation by entities identified in Provision 3 and by local education agencies, including school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, and can be replicated by other campuses and groups.
  - (c) Show commitment to achieving the priorities identified in Provision 2, as evidenced by changes made to existing policies, practices, and systems on or after January 10, 2014; the likelihood of any planned changes described in their applications; the support of faculty, students, and other individuals and groups involved in or impacted by these changes; and the ability to sustain changes over the long-term.
- 7. The Director of Finance shall notify a campus or group that has been selected for an award and indicate to that campus or group the proposed amount of funds included in its award.
- 8. Upon notification by the Director of Finance that it has been selected for an award, a campus or group shall do both of the following:
  - (a) Submit to the Director of Finance a report indicating how it will use funds included in the award.
  - (b) Commit to reporting to the Director of Finance the following:
    - (1) On or before January 1, 2018, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the changes described in its application in achieving the priorities identified in Provision 2 through the 2016–17 academic year, including the impact on the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded and the time it takes students to complete bachelor’s degrees.

- (2) On or before January 1, 2020, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the changes described in its application in achieving the priorities identified in Provision 2 through the 2018–19 academic year, including the impact on the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded and the time it takes students to complete bachelor’s degrees.
9. The Director of Finance shall not distribute funds included in an award to a campus or group unless the committee has approved the report submitted by that campus or group pursuant to subdivision (a) of Provision 8.
10. Actions taken to implement provisions of this item by the Department of Finance or the committee convened pursuant to Provision 6 shall not be subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.