

California Education Learning Lab

SEC. 1. Article 7 of Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 65059.1) is added to Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code.

SEC 2.

[Reserved for findings and declarations.]

SEC. 3.

Section 65059.1. As used in this article, “California Education Learning Laboratory” or “Learning Lab” means the California Education Learning Laboratory established in Section 3.

SEC. 4.

Section 65059.2. (a) The California Education Learning Laboratory, “learning lab” is hereby established as a program under the Office of Planning and Research. The purpose of the learning lab is to increase learning outcomes and close equity and achievement gaps using learning science and adaptive learning technologies in online or hybrid, college-level lower division courses in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and other disciplines.

(b) (1) The office shall issue calls for, and evaluate and award annually, competitive grant proposals to intersegmental faculty teams that apply principles of learning science and adaptive learning technologies in online or hybrid course series in STEM and other disciplines, based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

(A) The potential for reducing achievement and equity gaps in the particular discipline that is the subject of the call for proposals.

(B) The depth and breadth of expertise in the particular discipline and deployment of learning science or adaptive learning technologies across team members.

(C) The prospects for increasing equity and accessibility in quality STEM education and other disciplines that show high initial failure or drop rates, including scaling access to the newly developed or redesigned course or course series in the future.

(D) The potential to incorporate real-time learning outcomes data to improve the curriculum.

(E) The potential to utilize a common technology platform to deliver the course or course series.

(F) The representation of all three public higher education segments on the faculty team.

(G) The inclusion of career education and workforce pathways in the proposal.

(H) Any opportunities for leveraging nonstate funding.

(I) The quality of of concrete metrics and goals identified in the proposal.

(2) The office shall monitor progress of awarded proposals, and evaluate projects upon completion.

(3) (A) The office shall recruit an expert selection committee to score proposals and recommend awards.

(B) Members of the selection committee shall be deemed to not be interested in any contract, including any recommendation of award of funds by the committee, pursuant to this section.

(C) The selection committee established in subdivision shall comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2), except during the deliberative process as it relates to reviewing and ranking proposals and making final recommendations.

(c) The office shall create and post on a publicly available Internet Web site guidelines for award of funds made under subdivision (b). The guidelines shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) A competitive, merit-based application process that allows faculty from public higher education institutions to submit proposals. For the first three years, the office shall select STEM disciplines to award proposals. The office may limit the number of submissions per campus.

(2) A comprehensive peer-reviewed selection process.

(3) Eligibility requirements.

(A) At least two of the three public higher education segments must be represented in each proposal.

(B) All faculty team members must commit to teaching and evaluating the co-developed or jointly redesigned curriculum during the grant period.

(C) A proposal may include team members from other private nonprofit institutions, or nonfaculty as appropriate.

(4) Requirements regarding the use of awarded funds, including but not limited to a cap on indirect cost rates.

(5) Requirements regarding the use and sharing of research data and findings.

(6) Requirements for the protection of privacy and personal information.

(d) (1) Beginning in 2020, the office may, in addition to the grants awarded under subdivision (b):

(A) Award grants for professional development for faculty interested in adopting successful courses or series developed or redesigned through these grants.

(B) Curate a “best of” learning science library of online and hybrid courses and course series, including grant projects that have demonstrated successful outcomes.

(2) The office shall create and post on a publicly available Internet Web site guidelines for award of funds made under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1).

(e) The office shall solicit public, nonprofit, and private sector input for any additional guidelines for award of funds made pursuant to subdivisions (c) or (d).

(f) The office shall establish terms and conditions that require courses and course series, and technology and technology platforms developed or redesigned with these funds to be available as open education resources.

(g) (1) The office shall submit a report annually to the Legislature that provides a summary of awarded funds. The office shall also submit evaluations of projects to the Legislature. Multiple project evaluations may be submitted under one report.

(2) A written report made pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made in compliance with Section 9795

(h) The office may receive nonstate funds to support the operations of the learning lab or make additional grants available, or to increase the award of existing awardees pursuant to this article.

(i) Up to 5 percent of any amount appropriated to the office for the learning lab may be used by the office for administrative costs.

(1) Evaluation of projects, pursuant to subdivision (g), shall not be considered an administrative cost for the purposes of this section.

(2) Curation of the learning science library, pursuant to subdivision (d), shall not be considered an administrative cost for the purposes of this section.

(j) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2), the office may implement or interpret this article without taking any regulatory action.

(k) The office may enter into agreements with public entities, or with nonprofit or not-for-profit organizations, or a consortium of such organizations, for the purpose of

administering or jointly administering the learning lab, or administering any provision of this article.

SEC. 5.

Section 65059.3. It is the intent of the Legislature that the office make awards in compliance with the following:

- (a) The awards are made to public higher education institutions in California.
- (b) Award funding may be used to include private nonprofit higher education institutions in California.
- (c) The awards include, but are not limited to, awards to public higher education institutions in both northern and southern California.