



## **AB 2953 (Alvarez): First-Gen Forward**

### **Bill Summary**

AB 2953 requests the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) administrations to organize and commit to a 4-year accountability plan that incorporates a targeted outreach to first-generation students specifically in regions of California with low A-G completion rates. Additionally, this outreach expectation is accompanied by an annual progress report to the legislature outlining their progress.

### **Background**

It remains well supported that higher education bridges socioeconomic gaps and provides opportunity for social mobility.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, 37% of UC<sup>2</sup> and 28.8% of CSU undergraduates were first-generation.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, one of the biggest hurdles to pursuing higher education is the lack of fulfilling academic requirements for admission to California public universities.

Unfortunately, students statewide are facing challenges in meeting the criteria for California public university enrollment. As of 2023, 56% of California high school graduates did not complete their A-G requirements.<sup>4</sup> Given the esteemed reputation of California's public universities, it is incumbent upon us as a state to eliminate barriers and elevate access to higher education for all students.

Students of color find themselves at the cross-section of potential first-generation university students and students struggling to satisfy A-G

requirements. For this reason, it is important to take initiative as a state to advocate for our students and ensure college opportunity by asking our public universities to organize and report first-generation student outreach efforts.

### **Conclusion**

Implementing robust accountability and oversight measures is essential for evaluating the effectiveness of first-generation outreach and admissions initiatives across our public university segments. AB 2953 serves as a catalyst for these segments to strengthen existing outreach programs or establish new ones, addressing the informational barriers faced by many high school students on their journey to higher education.

By fostering targeted outreach efforts to regions with low A-G completion rates and prompting institutions to engage with prospective students, this legislation not only promotes accessibility but also demonstrates a commitment to empowering first-generation students in California.

### **Support**

- MANA de San Diego (*Sponsor*)
- California Charter Schools Association
- Universidad Popular

### **For More Information**

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<sup>1</sup> Isabel V. Sawhill and Sara McLanahan, "[Does College Really Improve Social Mobility?](#)" Brookings Institution, accessed 8 March 2024.

<sup>2</sup> University of California, "[First-Generation College Students](#)," University of California, accessed 6 March 2024.

SOURCE

<sup>3</sup> "CSU Undergraduate Fall Enrollment Trends 2023" (The California State University, 2023), accessed 12 February 2024.

<sup>4</sup> "[Most California high school seniors shut out of even applying to the state's universities](#)," EdSource, accessed 6 March 2024.