Support for Torlakson SB 44: Teacher Development

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) endorse Senate Bill 44: Teacher Development, introduced by Senator Torlakson.

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU forward this resolution to Senator Torlakson, the leadership of the California State Legislature, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees.

RATIONALE: The CSU has dedicated itself to providing quality teachers to meet the needs of California. The intent of SB 44 seems fully in concert with this mission and with the intent of providing students preparation for and access to various career paths. This bill will establish the California Teacher Cadet Program to be operated in conjunction with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the CSU. The program is to be established for the purpose of introducing public secondary school pupils to the teaching profession, with the promise of increasing minority participation in the teaching profession. The Chancellor of the CSU is charged with convening an advisory committee, consisting of appropriately qualified high school and college faculty and administrators, to develop a common core curriculum designed to expose and attract students to teaching careers and to develop criteria and standard for a competitive grant program to facilitate the establishment of professional development schools for teacher education. Subject to availability of funds, CSU is also directed to contract for evaluation of this program.

Approved Unanimously – May 10-11, 2007
SENATE BILL No. 44

Introduced by Senator Torlakson

December 22, 2006

An act to add Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 90545) to Chapter 11 of Part 55 of, and to add and repeal Article 5 (commencing with Section 90540) of Chapter 11 of Part 55 of, the Education Code, and to add and repeal Article 5 (commencing with Section 90540) of Chapter 11 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to teacher development, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 44, as amended, Torlakson. Teacher development.

(1) Existing law establishes the California Center on Teaching Careers for the purposes of recruiting qualified and capable individuals into the teaching profession. Existing law requires the California Center on Teaching Careers to perform specified duties, including, among others, creating or expanding a referral database for qualified teachers seeking employment in the public schools.

This bill would establish the California Teacher Cadet Program, to be operated by the California Center on Teaching Careers in conjunction with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the California State University. The bill would require the California State University to convene an advisory committee to accomplish both of the following: to develop a common core curriculum designed to expose pupils to teaching careers and the education system through the development of a hands-on curriculum that includes specified elements; and to develop criteria and standards that would be used to create a request-for-proposal for the competitive grant program established
under the bill and described below. The bill would specify the responsibilities of the advisory committee, and would require the chancellor to appoint the membership of the advisory committee in accordance with prescribed criteria. The bill would require the chancellor to submit to the Legislature and the Governor, on or before May 1, 2008, a report that includes the findings and recommendations of the advisory committee with respect to the competitive grant program.

The bill would require a school district that participates in the California Teacher Cadet Program to receive, from funds appropriated for that purpose, a one-time grant of up to $1,500 for the startup of the program at its schoolsite, as specified. The bill, subject to the availability of funding, would require the California State University to contract for an evaluation of this program and report to the Legislature, as specified, no later than January 1, 2011.

This bill would repeal the California Teacher Cadet Program on January 1, 2015.

(2) Existing law establishes the California State University under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University. Under existing law, the Chancellor of the California State University serves as the chief executive officer of the university.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to create a competitive grant program for institutions of higher education to collaborate with schools and local educational agencies in order to create and implement professional development schools for teacher education. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature to include an appropriation of $3,000,000 in the Budget Act of 2008 for the purposes of the competitive grant program.

(3) The bill would make an appropriation of $475,000 from the General Fund for the 2007–08 fiscal year for purposes relating to the California Teacher Cadet Program, and would provide that, for purposes of making computations required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, $300,000 of that amount, as scheduled, would be deemed to be “General Fund revenues appropriated to school districts,” as defined in existing law, for the 2007–08 fiscal year, and would be included within the “total allocations to school districts and community college districts from General Fund proceeds of taxes appropriated pursuant to Article XIII B,” as defined in existing law, for the 2007–08 fiscal year.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 5 (commencing with Section 90540) is added to Chapter 11 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 5. California Teacher Cadet Program

90540. The California Teacher Cadet Program is hereby established, and shall be operated by the California Center on Teaching Careers in conjunction with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the California State University. The program is established for the purpose of introducing public secondary school pupils to the teaching profession. The main purpose of the program is to encourage high school pupils who possess a high level of academic achievement and the personality traits found in good teachers to consider a career in teaching.

90541. (a) The Chancellor of the California State University shall convene an advisory committee, consisting of appropriately qualified high school and college faculty and administrators, as selected by the chancellor pursuant to subdivision (b) to accomplish both of the following:

(1) To develop a common core curriculum designed to expose pupils to teaching careers and the education system through the development of a hands-on curriculum that includes all of the following elements:

(A) Classroom discussions led by the supervising teacher at the high school.
(B) Hands-on activities designed to excite pupils about teaching.
(C) Observation and participation in public school classrooms.
(D) Interaction with successful administrators and teachers.
(E) Opportunities for high school pupils to participate in classrooms by tutoring, interning, and observing classroom teaching.

(2) To develop criteria and standards that will be used to create a request-for-proposal for the competitive grant program that would be established under Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 90545) by accomplishing all of the following:
(A) Determining the appropriate number of partnership schools for participation in the program with a university campus of a particular size.

(B) Defining the shared program responsibilities of the partnership school and the university campus.

(C) Estimating the amount of startup funding that is necessary for the implementation of the program.

(D) Determining the length of the commitment to be made by an institution participating in the program.

(E) Defining other components and standards of the program as the advisory committee deems appropriate.

(b) The chancellor shall select the membership of the advisory committee established under this section. The membership of the advisory committee shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, representatives of both of the following:

(1) Administrators and faculty from public elementary or secondary schools, chosen from lists, provided by the State Department of Education, of faculty and administrators with experience in working at partnership schools.

(2) Teacher training faculty or administrators from each of the following: the University of California, the California State University, and at least one college or university that is a member of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities. Each person selected under this paragraph shall have experience with partnerships between elementary or secondary schools and institutions of higher education.

(c) On or before May 1, 2008, the chancellor shall submit to the Legislature and the Governor a report that includes the findings and recommendations of the advisory committee with respect to the competitive grant program established under Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 90545).

90542. A school district that participates in the California Teacher Cadet Program shall receive, from funds appropriated for that purpose, a one-time grant of up to one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500) for the startup of the program at its schoolsite that will fund the purchase of materials and the development of tutoring, internship, and observation options for the high school pupils enrolled in the California Teacher Cadet Program.

90543. Subject to the availability of funding, the California State University shall contract for an evaluation of this program,
and shall report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2011. The evaluation should include interviews with program participants, high school teachers and counselors, and supervising teachers who interact with cadets regarding their views on the value of the program and whether participation in the California Teacher Cadet Program has been instrumental in encouraging the selection of teaching as a career. The program shall make available an aggregate report of this information after each year. This report shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, a description of any actions taken as a result of this feedback to continually strengthen and improve the program’s effectiveness.

90544. This article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2015, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2015, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 90545) is added to Chapter 11 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 5.5. Competitive Grant Program for Partnership Schools and Institutions of Higher Education

90545. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to create a competitive grant program for institutions of higher education to collaborate with schools and local educational agencies in order to create and implement professional development schools for teacher education. The criteria for grant program awards shall include all of the following:

(1) Preference for projects that incorporate, into their plans, schools that include any or all of kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and that are ranked in deciles 1 to 3, inclusive, of the Academic Performance Index.

(2) Novice teachers shall be offered extensive hands-on experience in the classroom alongside experienced teachers, exposure to demonstration teachers, and consistent ongoing contact with informal mentors.

(3) Preference for projects that share the responsibility for new teacher education by highlighting the collaboration between the faculty of institutions of higher education and the personnel of any
school that includes any or all of kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to include an appropriation of three million dollars ($3,000,000) in the Budget Act of 2008 for the purposes of the competitive grant program that would be established under this article.

SEC. 3. (a) The sum of four hundred seventy-five thousand dollars ($475,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund for the 2007–08 fiscal year to be allocated as follows:

(1) Twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) to the State Department of Education for administrative costs associated with the allocation of startup grants to school districts for the California Teacher Cadet Program specified in Section 90540.

(2) One hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000) to the California State University for curriculum and program development assistance and outreach services related to the California Teacher Cadet Program, and for convening the advisory committee and submitting the report pursuant to Section 90541 of the Education Code.

(3) Three hundred thousand dollars ($300,000) to the State Department of Education for allocation to school districts for the purposes associated with the startup costs of the California Teacher Cadet Program in up to 200 schoolsites statewide.

(b) For purposes of making computations required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, the appropriation made by paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be deemed to be “General Fund revenues appropriated to school districts,” as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 41202 of the Education Code, for the 2007–08 fiscal year, and shall be included within the “total allocations to school districts and community college districts from General Fund proceeds of taxes appropriated pursuant to Article XIII B,” as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 41202 of the Education Code, for the 2007–08 fiscal year.