

Exhibit 9

Information/Action Item

Consideration of the 2015-16 California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Contracts

Background

The California State Legislature established the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) in 1978. The Cal-SOAP program consists of regional consortia of K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions and non-profit and community-based organizations whose aim is to increase postsecondary education opportunities for students who are from low-income families, and first-generation college students, who come from schools or regions with low college eligibility or college-going rates.

Today, the program operates through 14 locally governed consortia throughout the state. Each project's governing board consists of representatives from local secondary school districts, community colleges, universities, career technical schools, and community agencies. The governing boards of each Cal-SOAP project determine the services and college access needs of its local schools and communities. However, all of the projects are to: (1) increase the availability of information on postsecondary schooling and work opportunities and; (2) raise the achievement levels of these students so as to increase the number of high school graduates eligible to pursue postsecondary learning opportunities.

Existing law also allows projects to assist community college students in transferring to four-year institutions to the extent that project resources are available. The projects may also provide assistance to middle school students to help motivate them to prepare themselves for college preparatory courses. These efforts are to inform students and their parents of the future availability of financial aid resources should they prepare themselves for postsecondary education and/or training.

2015-16 Cal SOAP Funding Recommendations

Since 2010-11 the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) was funded through the Federal College Access Challenge Grant (Challenge Grant). The Challenge Grant funding expires September 30, 2015 and 2015-16 State General funding was requested through a Budget Change Proposal. The Governor's budget approved Cal-SOAP funding of \$7,721,000 for the 2015-16 fiscal year and is contingent upon the Governor's final approved budget.

Commission staff recommends that the Commission proceed with its consideration of the 2015-16 Cal-SOAP contracts. Consideration and approval of the proposed funding allocations by the Commission, will enable the projects to begin preparing their 2015-16 Annual Program Plans (APP).

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The Governor's budget provided Cal-SOAP the following baseline funding:

2015-16	
Proposed State GF Funding	\$ 7,721,000
Cal-SOAP	\$ 5,889,657
Career Technical Education (CTE)	\$ 1,000,000
Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)	\$ 500,000
<i>Unallocated funds</i>	<i>\$ 331,343</i>

Funding recommendations take into account baseline allocations, reinstatement of Career Technical Education (CTE) funding, continued database development, and Middle Class Scholarship Program outreach as noted below:

1. Baseline funding

Staff recommends that the total baseline funding for Cal-SOAP remain at the same level as the prior year as shown below in Table 1, Cal-SOAP 2015-16 Proposed Budget Allocation.

2. Reinstatement of \$162,500 to Cal-SOAP's CTE baseline funding

The State Budget designated Cal-SOAP \$1 million in 2008-09 for CTE program activities and required the Commission to consult with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges (CCCCO) to determine the projects and activities for these funds. In 2013-14 the Challenge Grant funding was decreased by 5.1% due to Federal Sequester actions. At the September 2013 Commission meeting, approval was given to keep the overall 2013-14 Cal-SOAP baseline funding at the same level as the previous year by decreasing the Cal-SOAP's CTE program by \$162,500. Now that Cal-SOAP has been fully funded for the 2015-16 year, staff recommends to reinstate the CTE program \$162,500 and allocate this amount evenly to all Cal-SOAP projects.

3. Unallocated Cal-SOAP funds of \$331,343

Staff recommends that a portion of the unallocated funds be used to contract for a Business Analyst to work with the project directors to document the system requirements necessary for modifying the Cal-SOAP database for making any enhancements. In addition, staff recommends that some of the unallocated funds be used to secure a consultant to work with Cal-SOAP project directors to develop a tool or methodology to evaluate the Cal-SOAP program. The funding for the database and the evaluation tool would be included in a contract with one of the consortia.

4. Middle Class Scholarship Outreach

In 2013, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to work with the Project Directors to develop a methodology for allocating the \$500,000 for outreach for the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) Program. We developed an approach that divided the state into nine regions that took into consideration the locations of the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) campuses. Each project was asked to submit a

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proposal on how they would conduct outreach in one of these region that was focused on the high schools with families with incomes that would be expected to qualify for the MCS scholarship. This approach required projects to expand outreach services to high schools beyond those typically served by their consortium.

A portion of this allocation, \$95,000, was allocated to the East Bay Consortium for specific outreach material requested by Commission staff, such as the development and printing of an MCS flyer, an MCS video and other social media projects. The MCS funding cannot be used for student tutoring and does not require matching resources.

Commission staff recommends maintaining the allocation of the \$95,000 for MCS outreach for the 2015-16 program year for outreach projects such as printing, videos or other social media projects, as requested by Commission staff.

Table 1 provides staff recommendations on the 2015-16 distribution of the proposed Cal-SOAP fiscal year 2015-16 State General Fund support, if approved by the Governor in the final State budget.

**Table 1 - CAL-SOAP
2015-16 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION**

Consortium	Baseline	Career Technical Education Baseline	Total Baseline	*MCS Outreach	Unallocated	Total Contract Allocations
Central Coast	\$ 276,316	\$ 66,667	\$ 342,983	\$ 45,000		\$ 387,983
Central Valley	\$ 276,316	\$ 66,667	\$ 342,983	\$ 22,500		\$ 365,483
East Bay & Solano*	\$ 737,117	\$ 133,329	\$ 870,446	\$ 137,500		\$ 1,007,946
Long Beach	\$ 276,316	\$ 66,667	\$ 342,983	\$ 45,000		\$ 387,983
Los Angeles	\$ 580,866	\$ 66,667	\$ 647,533	\$ 45,000		\$ 692,533
Merced	\$ 276,316	\$ 66,667	\$ 342,983	\$ 22,500		\$ 365,483
Northcoast	\$ 338,161	\$ 66,667	\$ 404,828	\$ 11,249		\$ 416,077
Sacramento	\$ 520,760	\$ 66,667	\$ 587,427	\$ 33,751		\$ 621,178
San Diego/Imperial Co.	\$ 884,325	\$ 66,667	\$ 950,992	\$ 45,000		\$ 995,992
San Francisco	\$ 276,316	\$ 66,667	\$ 342,983	\$ 2,500		\$ 345,483
San Jose	\$ 421,304	\$ 66,667	\$ 487,971	\$ 23,661		\$ 511,632
Santa Barbara	\$ 437,889	\$ 66,667	\$ 504,556	\$ -		\$ 504,556
South County Gilroy	\$ 311,339	\$ 66,667	\$ 378,006	\$ 21,339		\$ 399,345
South San Joaquin	\$ 276,316	\$ 66,667	\$ 342,983	\$ 45,000		\$ 387,983
					\$ 331,343	
Total	\$ 5,889,657	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 6,889,657	\$ 500,000	\$ 331,343	\$ 7,721,000

* Commission staff allocated \$95,000 to East Bay Consortium for specific MCS outreach materials.

Recommended Actions:

The Commission authorizes the Executive Director to take the following actions, subject to the final 2015-16 State Budget:

1. Execute the 2015-16 contracts to provide up to \$7,721,000 in total baseline funding and authorize the Executive Director flexibility to reallocate funds as equitably as possible if a project cannot utilize all of its allocated funds.
2. Reinstate \$162,500 to the CTE baseline allocation.

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3. Provide up to \$331,343 in additional 2015-16 contract funding for documenting business requirements for the database enhancements and an evaluation tool for the program.
4. Allocate \$500,000 in additional 2015-16 contract funding for outreach of the Middle Class Scholarship Program, with \$95,000 allocated to a consortium for specific outreach material requested by the Commission staff.

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