



TO: SEAProgram Listserv

FROM: Barbara Lezon
Specialist, Educational Services and Support

RE: Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program Updates

As we enter the second year of the Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program, the Chancellor's Office wishes to provide a recap of year one and a preview of what to expect in 2019-2020.

HISTORY

The Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program was established in July 2018. It combined funding from three distinct programs into one bucket with the goal of providing colleges more flexibility in spending related to equity and student services. Last year, district funding for the SEA program was based on 17-18 allocations of Student Services and Support Program (SSSP) funds, Student Equity funds and Basic Skills funds.

The Student Services Division of the Chancellor's Office conducted SEAProgram training in the fall of 2018, providing guidance on program legislation, expenditures, and the student equity plan. Colleges had the opportunity to provide feedback about challenges faced in implementing the program. As with any new program, there was still much to be determined, which led the Chancellor's Office to establish a SEAprogram workgroup - an expansion of the SSSP committee.

Representatives from each region and constituency joined the group and worked together over the 18-19 year to create recommendations on the following key components of the SEAprogram: policy alignment, funding formula, MIS data review, student education plan, and annual report. Each subgroup submitted its final recommendations to the Chancellor's Office in early July.

SUMMARY OF SEA WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The **Policy Subgroup** drafted a guidance document to accompany Education Code § 78222, and made recommendations to amend/align SEAProgram, Guided Pathways, AB705, Basic Skills, Student Equity and SSSP policies/codes. The group noted the lack of connectivity in language between Guided Pathways and SEAprogram policy/Ed Code as a concern and important to address. The Foundation for California Community Colleges and the Chancellor's Office are in the process of reviewing the group's recommendations. Once the code and/or regulatory changes are fully identified, the Chancellor's Office will work to get them into the legislative cycle.

The **Funding Formula Subgroup** based its recommendation off the guiding assumption that the SEAProgram formula should strive to ensure stable funding for colleges, while also supporting the intent of the program – to build equity and promote student success. The group identified several basic components for the formula, and recommended the Chancellor's Office test the

formula by running simulations. We are currently testing several scenarios. *For 19-20, the SEA Program allocations will remain the same as the previous year.* For 20-21, if there is not yet a final funding formula in place, the group recommended a COLA increase for colleges.

The **MIS Data Subgroup** reviewed and discussed the current MIS data available. It was determined that any changes would depend on the work of the other subgroups. At this time, no changes are needed (no new data elements were recommended). This group will stand by in 19-20 as the SEA program further develops and will re-evaluate as needed.

The **Student Education Plan Subgroup** developed a document of recommendations or best practices for what should be included in an education plan, how a college might prioritize the roll-out of plans for all students, and the timing for development and delivery of individual student plans. The group agreed that local-control is critical, in order for each college to create a process that meets its unique student and programmatic needs. The group will be sharing its recommendations with the regions this fall to obtain feedback and continue the discussion. Please plan to have someone from this group attend your fall regional meeting.

The **Annual Report Subgroup** drafted a framework around which we will build a SEA Program report module in the NOVA system. Major recommendations include pre-populating any data/metrics already housed in NOVA, standardizing data when possible, and striving to align the Vision Goals, Guided Pathways, AB705 and Student Equity Plan goals. The Chancellor's Office is working with the NOVA vendor to build a mock-up of the report, which will be shared with the workgroup for feedback. The NOVA module is planned to be released in September.

STUDENT EQUITY PLANS

Student Equity Plans were due to be certified by June 30, 2019. The Chancellor's Office wishes to thank each of you, and those on your campuses, for your commitment and hard work. Although the plans are required by Education Code, they are also an amazing resource that captures the incredible work being done on all community college campuses to ensure achievement and equity across all student groups. Take a look at other plans to see the efforts that community colleges in your region – and outside of it – are employing. The *Analytics* tab (located under Student Equity Plans in the left side menu bar in NOVA) captures the data entered in the plans, and can be used to drill down by region, district, college, demographic or metric.

The Chancellor's Office is working with a research center to analyze the data in all of the plans. This research will be shared with the community colleges.

REPORTING DEADLINES

The **17-18 Integrated Plan Year-End Expenditures Report** is due September 30, 2019. This report module will be available in NOVA very soon, and a training webinar will be scheduled (and recorded) immediately after its release. A soft copy of the report template was provided via the SEA Program listserv on June 19.

The **SEA Program Annual Report** is due January 1, 2020. The Chancellor's Office is working with the NOVA vendor and the SEA Workgroup to design and build the module. A soft copy of the report template will be sent over the SEA listserv shortly after the final design is approved. The module is

currently scheduled to go live in NOVA at the end of September. A comprehensive training will be conducted shortly after its release.

2019-20 FUNDING

An advance allocations memo was sent July 1. *For 19-20, the SEA Program allocations will remain the same as the previous year.* Colleges have two years to spend the funds – for 19-20, funds can be spent through June 30, 2021. The Chancellor's Office will work on testing various funding formula scenarios over the next few months.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2019-20

A new **SEA Program learning community** is coming to the Vision Resource Center. This resource will provide the opportunity for engagement and collaboration among colleagues, while also allowing the Chancellor's Office to post timely updates and information about the program. This will become the main communication hub for the SEA Program, used in conjunction with the SEA listserv. If you have not already signed up for the Vision Resource Center, request access at: <https://visionresourcecenter.cccco.edu/> We plan to launch the SEA Program community this fall.

The Chancellor's Office is planning an **equity-focused conference** for late 2020. More details will be shared as plans are solidified over the next few months. In the meantime, if you have ideas for topics or sessions please feel free to reach out to us.

The SEA Program is still new and evolving this year. Throughout 2019-20, there will be opportunities to help inform training sessions, develop resources for college staff and address program challenges. Please let us know if you have an interest in assisting with these endeavors and in what capacity.

And as your college begins the new year, if you have questions or encounter issues related to the Student Equity and Achievement Program, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Chancellor's Office resource team. Let us know how we can support you!

Barbara Lezon, Specialist - blezon@cccoco.edu or 916-323-5275

Thomas Ponik, Analyst - tponik@cccoco.edu or 916-323-6877

If you have any questions concerning this memo, please contact Barbara Lezon, Specialist, Educational Services and Support, blezon@cccoco.edu or 916-323-5275.

CC: Rhonda Mohr, Vice Chancellor Educational Services and Support
Alice Perez, Vice Chancellor Educational Services and Support
Michael Quiaoit, Dean Educational Services and Support
Mia Kelley, Dean Educational Services and Support
Thomas Ponik, Analyst Educational Services and Support