

California Community Colleges History of COLA 1991-2008

Year	CCC COLA	Statutory COLA
1991-92	0%	5.11%
1992-93	0	2.18
1993-94	0	2.05
1994-95	0	1.99
1995-96	3.07	3.07
1996-97	3.06	3.06
1997-98	2.97	2.97
1998-99	2.26	2.26
1999-00	1.41	1.41
2000-01	4.17	3.17
2001-02	3.87	3.87
2002-03	2.00	1.66
2003-04	0	1.8
2004-05	2.41	2.41
2005-06	4.23	4.23
2006-07	5.92	5.92
2007-08	4.53	4.53
2008-09	0	4.94
2009-10	0	4.25
2010-11		-0.38

The COLA (cost-of-living-adjustment) for community colleges is the percentage change of the Implicit Price Deflator for state and local government purchases of goods and services for the United States, as published by the United States Department of Commerce. Education code section 84750 (e) specifies that community colleges receive the same inflation adjustment as required for school districts. The current statutory index assumes a level of funding to support community college district salary, health benefits, and price increase. However, the Implicit Price Deflator has not kept pace with actual compensation expenditures nor has it kept pace with the skyrocketing costs of health care premiums. Additionally, community colleges incurred a significant deficit factor when no COLA was provided in the early and mid-1990s, in 2003-04 and more recently over the prior three fiscal years – 2008-09 to 2010-11. This chart illustrates the 17- year history of the COLA for the California Community Colleges.

Over the years, the community college districts have struggled to adequately meet salary requirements, health benefits, and price increases under the current COLA structure. Indeed, it is an inadequate response to the need in the CCC to provide competitive wages in order to recruit, retain, and reward a teaching corps and staff support to deliver high quality education to our community college students.