

2022 Legislative Guiding Principles

WHAT GUIDES OUR WORK

Adopted by the Board of Governors in 2017, the *Vision for Success* guides our efforts to continuously improve student outcomes with a focus on closing equity gaps, reducing excess unit accumulation, increasing degree and certificate attainment and transfers to four-year institutions, and securing gainful employment for our graduates. This *Vision* aims to ensure the success of our students from point of entry to their ultimate educational and career destination. Today, as the state grapples with national social unrest, weathers an economic crisis, and an unprecedented global health pandemic, the execution of and support for these commitments have never been more important.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Today's economic and political reality remind us that we must not lose sight of the equity principles we stand for, which are rooted in equitable access, success, and completion. The tenets of the *Vision for Success* serve as our starting point for our policy advocacy efforts and serve as a basis for determining the Chancellor's Office recommendations on legislative proposals. As such, the Chancellor's Office will support legislation that strengthens the California Community Colleges' ability to meet the goals established in the *Vision*, advances the priorities established in the annual System Budget and Legislative Request, and is consistent with prior statements of Board of Governors policy.

2022 LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board of Governors provides representation, advocacy, and accountability for the California Community Colleges (Ed Code § 70901(b)(4)). The Procedures and Standing Orders of the Board of Governors directs the Chancellor to represent the system on matters pending before the state and federal governments and authorizes the Chancellor to take positions on pending legislation on behalf of the Board, as specified (Procedures and Standing Orders § 317). Except under limited circumstances, the Chancellor's Office consults with Consultation Council prior to adopting a formal position on pending legislation; and all Chancellor's Office adopted positions are included in published updates to both Consultation Council and the Board of Governors.

To help guide the Chancellor's Office in engaging in matters before the state and federal governments, the following guiding principles provide a baseline framework.

2022 Legislative Priorities

In the first year of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, the Legislature and Administration made significant investments and enacted policy reforms to stabilize the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, many students have continued to place their educational goals on pause. The Chancellor's Office will advocate for the following legislative priorities to lift these students out of poverty, advance educational equity, and provide long-term access and success, consistent with the *Vision for Success*.

Equitable Placement and Enrollment

The passage of AB 705 (Irwin) in 2017 resulted in a transformational shift in how community colleges assessed and placed students in courses by requiring colleges to maximize the probability that a student would enter and complete transfer-level coursework in English and math within a one-year timeframe. While significant progress has been made since the law went into effect, the Chancellor's Office has identified a need for further clarify provisions that describe what constitutes full implementation of this legislation. The Chancellor's Office intends to spearhead legislation clarifies that community colleges are responsible for placing **and enrolling** students within transfer-level English and math courses and providing additional academic and learning supports as necessary.

AB 540 Expansion

In the 20 years since its passage, Assembly Bill 540 has successfully expanded opportunities for a college education and reduced opportunity gaps among the thousands of undocumented students attending a California community college. However, more work is needed to strengthen this framework and ensure more students qualify for the nonresident tuition exemption in a timely manner. The Chancellor's Office intends to sponsor legislation to: 1) change the threshold to qualify the nonresident tuition exemption from three to two years of full-time attendance; and 2) remove the two-year cap on full-time enrollment in credit courses.

Transfer Guarantee

The barriers to student transfer are structural in nature, not procedural. Yet, without access to data and continued collaboration among all higher education segments, community college students will continue to face difficulty in finding pathways that fully *guarantee* them admission to a *local* four-year institution. The Chancellor's Office will advocate for legislation and policies that enhance data sharing and in-depth analysis on transfer so that all pathways (including the Associate Degree for Transfer) comprise a true guarantee. Without access to this critical information, our system cannot develop an effective understanding of the transfer barriers student face or align frameworks, messaging, supports, and other tools to UC/CSU requirements.

Financial Aid Reform

Although historic budget investments and legislative efforts in 2021 expanded community college students' eligibility to the Cal Grant program, the total cost of success remains excessively high for low-income students. The Chancellor's Office will continue to advocate for legislation to increase the Cal Grant award amount, which will assist students with living costs and basic needs. The ideal proposal would identify a dedicated revenue source to ensure the Cal Grant award grows over time and does not lose purchasing power, addressing the total cost of success for all students.

Legislative Issue Matrix

The following matrix will also help guide the Chancellor's Office legislative positions for the second year of the 2021-22 Legislative Session.

Issue	Summary/Actions	State/Federal	Vision Goal
Access	Support efforts that remove barriers to college access and expands opportunity (e.g. standardized testing, admissions, placement practices).	State/Federal	All
Baccalaureate Degrees	Support legislation authorizing the Board of Governors to approve evidence- based baccalaureate degree programs at California Community Colleges aligned with local labor market demands.	State	1, 4, 5, 6
Basic Needs	Support legislation that increases access to services and programs that address students' basic needs, including but not limited to, food insecurity, housing and homelessness, health care, and mental health.	State/Federal	All
Board of Governors	Maintain neutrality on legislation affecting the Board of Governors composition, or appointments and confirmation processes.	State	N/A
Career Education	Support legislation that strengthens the system's ability to achieve its goals of providing career education that helps students achieve social mobility and economic security.	State/Federal	1, 4
Chancellor's Office	Support legislation that expands resources and capacity for the Chancellor's Office that strengthens its ability to achieve the <i>Vision</i> goals, deliver on legislative and budgetary responsibilities, and meet state and economic demands.	State	All
Collective Bargaining	Maintain neutrality on legislation that affects matters of local collective bargaining agreements.	State	N/A

Data Sharing	Support legislation that creates opportunities for data sharing among educational and workforce segments for the purpose of improving student access, success, and career opportunities.	State/Federal	All
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Support legislation that improves faculty and staff diversity and provides the Chancellor's Office with adequate resources to implement the recommendations of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.	State	All
Dual Enrollment	Support legislation that reduces unnecessary barriers and increases dual enrollment opportunities for historically underserved students.	State	All
Equitable Classroom Environment	Support legislation that provides students with the equitable classroom supports they need to be successful and colleges the resources they need to reduce equity gaps.	State	1, 2, 3, 5
Facilities	Support legislation that provides adequate resources and authority for the system to meet facility needs, including student housing, as outlined in the Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan and System Budget Request.	State	All
Financial Aid	Support legislation that increases financial aid available to help community college students cover the total costs of college success, removes eligibility barriers to accessing financial aid for disproportionately impacted students, and provides adequate resources to college financial aid offices to support students.	State/Federal	All

Guided Pathways	Support legislation that renews and strengthens the state's investment in Guided Pathways and provides colleges with the resources and opportunities to implement Guided Pathways and significantly improve student outcomes.	State/Federal	All
Intersegmental Partnerships	Support legislation that encourages cooperation among educational segments, ensures a seamless transition for community college students from point of entry (K-12) to exit (four-year universities and the workforce), and provides adequate protections for students attending for-profit colleges.	State/Federal	2, 5, 6
Local Governing Boards	Maintain neutrality on legislation that affects the composition and operations of local governing boards.	State	N/A
Proposition 98	Support legislation that increases financial resources available to community college districts and protects the integrity of Proposition 98 funds.	State	All
Single District Legislation	Maintain neutrality on specific district legislation unless it affects resource allocations for other districts or diverges from the mission of the California Community Colleges.	State/Federal	N/A
Special Student Populations	Support legislation that allows colleges to provide educational opportunities to historically underrepresented populations outlined in Student Equity Plans, such as undocumented, first-generation, low-income, foster youth, veterans, justice-involved students, homeless students, and students with disabilities.	State/Federal	5, 6
Student Centered Funding Formula	Support legislation that ensures full funding and implementation of the Student Centered Funding Formula.	State	All

Student Equity and Achievement Program	Support legislation that advances the system wide goal of boosting achievement for all students, with an emphasis on eliminating equity and opportunity gaps for students from traditionally underrepresented populations.	State/Federal	All
Student Leadership	Support legislation that empowers students and elevates student voices in policy development, especially around reducing inequities and achieving the Vision for Success goals.	State/Federal	All
Student Safety	Support legislation that ensures student and campus safety, and assists districts in compliance with state/federal student and campus safety laws, including, but not limited to, Title IX, Clery Act, and Violence Against Women Act.	State/Federal	All
Transfer	Support legislation that maximizes opportunities and access for students to transfer to high-quality universities, and ensures alignment to the framework established under the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440, Statutes of 2010), and provides adequate protections for students attending for-profit colleges.	State	2, 3, 5, 6