



## Disabled Student Programs and Services

September 2017

### **Program History**

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) was created when Assembly Bill 77 (Lanterman), was enacted in 1976 and codified in Education Code, Section 84850 and Title 5, California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) Sections 56000-56076. It funds support services and instructional programs for students with disabilities in the California Community Colleges. DSPS assists colleges to provide services and accommodations for qualified students to support their student success and to meet the requirements of federal and State non-discrimination and civil rights laws, including Sections 504 and 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and California Government Code Sections 11135-11139.5.

### **Description**

The DSPS program provides support services and educational accommodations to students with disabilities so that they can have full and equitable access to the community college experience. In addition, many colleges provide specialized instruction as part of their DSPS program. An Academic Accommodation Plan (AAP) is developed for each student served by DSPS. The AAP defines the student's educational goals and outlines the support services and academic accommodations to be provided to address the student's specific disability-related educational needs.

Examples of services that may be provided by DSPS that are over and above those regularly offered by the college would be test-proctoring, assessment for learning disabilities, specialized counseling, interpreter or captioning services for hearing-impaired or deaf students, mobility assistance, note-taker services, reader services, transcription services, specialized tutoring, access to adaptive equipment, job development/placement, registration assistance, special parking and specialized instruction.

### **Appropriation for 2017-2018**

\$117,188,000 allocated to community colleges in these amounts:

- \$100,458,964 for general DSPS services and instruction
- \$1,000,000 to State Developmental Centers for specialized instruction for residents
- \$1,000,000 to the High Tech Center Training Unit for training on specialized computer equipment for the disabled
- \$1,700,000 to the Alternate Text Production Center to provide Braille and e-text
- \$1,184,036 to the DSPS Program Accountability & Development Services fund for special projects
- \$1,245,000 for Alternate Media and Equal Access to Print and Electronic Media
- \$1,000,000 for Distance Education Captioning and Transcription to provide deaf and hard of hearing students access

- \$9,600,000 for services to deaf and hard of hearing students

**Students served during 2015-16:**

<b>Disability Category</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Acquired Brain Injury	4,554	3.74 %
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	109	0.09 %
Autism Spectrum	22	0.02 %
Developmentally Delayed Learner	7,267	5.96 %
Hearing Impaired	4,873	4.00 %
Learning Disabled	18,038	14.80 %
Mobility Impaired	11,469	9.41 %
Other Disability	51,165	41.99 %
Psychological Disability	20,725	17.01 %
Speech/Language Impaired	842	0.69 %
Visually Impaired	2,790	2.29 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,854</b>	

**Eligibility Criteria:**

To be served by DSPS, the student must have a verified disability which results in an educational limitation that inhibits the student’s ability to participate in the general educational program of the college without additional specialized services.

**Critical Issues:**

The funding provided for the DSPS program assists colleges in meeting the Federal accommodation requirements for students with disabilities in community colleges. However, the DSPS allocation may not always be sufficient to cover all accommodations and services DSPS students require, especially as new student populations, service delivery systems and new accommodation issues emerge. Program funding was partially restored in 2013-14 after being cut by 40 percent in 2009-10, and an additional \$30 million was added to the appropriation for 2014-15, to further help restore resources needed to enable colleges to provide timely accommodations for students with disabilities. An additional system-wide cost of living allowance (COLA) to the DSPS appropriation in 2017-18, brings the total state funding to \$117,188,000.