



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

November 2017

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

On September 15, 2017, the Legislature adjourned for Interim Recess. The final day for the Governor to sign or veto the bills approved by the Legislature was October 15, 2017. Of the 179 bills introduced in 2017 that were tracked by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Governmental Relations Division (Division), the Governor approved 39 bills that directly affect California Community Colleges and the students our colleges serve (including six related to the 2017-18 Budget Act). Throughout the 2017 Legislative year, the Division worked to advance policies that align with the [Vision for Success](#) goals of increasing student completions, reducing unit accumulation, and eliminating achievement gaps. The Division is pleased to report that many of the CCCCCO top policy priorities were enacted by the Governor, including:

- **AB 705 (Irwin): Assessment and Placement Policies.** Requires community college districts to maximize the probability of students entering and completing transfer-level coursework in math and English within a one-year timeframe by using multiple measures to achieve this goal. The bill requires community colleges to use high school performance information when determining a student's readiness for college-level English and math. It also prohibits community colleges from requiring a student to enroll in remedial courses unless research shows the student is "highly unlikely" to succeed in transfer-level.
- **AB 19 (Santiago): California College Promise Framework.** As introduced, AB 19 focused on a "free tuition" program, and would have waived the enrollment fees for first time, full-time community college students. Amendments negotiated by the Division require the CCCCCO to establish a statewide California College Promise that focuses on providing students with support and a clear transition from high school through community college. The bill does not contain funding for the program. The CCCCCO has requested funding be provided in the 2018-19 Budget Act.
- **SB 68 (Lara): Public Postsecondary Education: Exemption from Nonresident Tuition.** This proposal expands the population of students exempt from paying nonresident tuition to include any student who has attended California schools or community colleges for three years and graduated from California high school, or the equivalent, attained an associate degree, or met UC or CSU transfer requirements.
- **AB 1018 (Reyes): Community College Student Equity Plans.** This bill adds homeless and LGBT students to the categories of students required to be addressed in the Student Equity Plans. The bill further requires the CCCCCO to share data, if available, to support college implementation of these requirements.
- **SB 12 (Beall): Foster Youth in Higher Education.** SB 12 requires county child welfare agencies to assist foster youth in the financial aid application process; requires the Student Aid Commission to work with the Department of Social Services to develop an automated system to verify a student's foster youth status for applying for federal Pell Grants; and expands Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) program from the current level of 10 community college districts to *up to* 20 districts.

A short summary of bills affecting California Community Colleges is included in the attached 2017 Legislative Overview and a complete status update of all legislation tracked by the Division is included in the Bill Matrix.

SUMMARY OF 2017 EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

The California Community Colleges Chancellors Office (CCCCO) Governmental Relations Division (Division), in coordination with other divisions in the CCCCCO, organized and participated in a number of education and advocacy activities that aimed to advance the system budget and policy goals. What follows is a non-exhaustive summary of these efforts.

Legislative and External Stakeholder Briefings

- **Financial Aid and Affordability-** The CCCCCO partnered with The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) on [*Aiding Success: The Role of State and Federal Financial Aid in Supporting California Community College Students*](#). This report looks at the role of state and federal aid in supporting college completion. The Division, TICAS, and ACCT conducted briefings on this report in Washington D.C. on February 15, 2017, in the California State Capitol on March 10, 2017, and at the ACCT Annual Conference on September 25, 2017.
- **Guided Pathways-** The CCCCCO partnered with the Campaign for College Opportunity and the California Edge Coalition to host a Capitol Forum on March 16, 2017, to discuss the guided pathways budget proposal and highlight the experiences of colleges already working in implementing this framework. On April 6, 2017, the coalition partnered with Sierra College to host a site-visit for Legislative and Department of Finance staff in order for them to better understand the college's work to implement guided pathways.
- **Career Education-** The CCCCCO collaborated with the California Edge Coalition to provide Legislative stakeholders an update on the implementation of the Strong Workforce Program. The CCCCCO hosted a lunchtime briefing on July 13, 2017. On August 10, 2017, the Division hosted a lobby-day in the Capitol to inform California Legislators of colleges in their district that received a [*Strong Workforce Star*](#) recognition. This resulted in a number of members authoring resolutions recognizing college programs. On September 6, 2017, the CCCCCO partnered with Senator Connie Leyva to host a breakfast briefing on the Career Education rebranding and Workforce Stars program.
- **Basic Skills-** The CCCCCO partnered with the Campaign for College Opportunity to participate in the California Acceleration Project Conference, on March 10, 2017, on a panel entitled "Basic Skills: Understanding the Legislative Landscape." This panel provided an opportunity to discuss CCCCCO efforts to improve [*assessment and placement*](#) policies and to invest in basic skills transformations. On October 24, 2017, the CCCCCO participated on a panel convened by the Public Policy Institute of California on [*Reforming Math Pathways in the California Community Colleges*](#).
- **Transfer-** On November 8, 2017, the CCCCCO joined the Campaign for College Opportunity for a Capitol briefing on [*The Transfer Maze*](#), to discuss the critical role that transfer plays in meeting California's degree production needs. The University of California and the California State University also participated in this staff briefing to discuss challenges and opportunities in the transfer process.
- **Undocumented Students-** The CCCCCO has conducted a number of activities to support and protect California's undocumented students, including participating in an organizing effort convened by the Campaign for College Opportunity, which included bringing together advocacy organizations, foundations, private funders, and higher education stakeholders on April 19, 2017, and October 19, 2017. CCCCCOs participation in these events, in part, led to the Foundation for California Community Colleges receiving a small grant from the Irvine Foundation to support the establishment of a best practices handbook to support colleges in better serving undocumented students.

Legislative Oversight Hearings

- Assembly Higher Education Committee and Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance, Monday, February 27, 2017, joint oversight hearing on [College Affordability in California – Hitting or Missing the Mark?](#), testimony on behalf of the California Community Colleges provided by Greg Peterson, Vice President of Student Services, Long Beach City College.
- Senate Committee on Education, Wednesday, March 1, 2017, oversight hearing on the [Status of Remedial Education in California](#), testimony on behalf of the California Community Colleges provided by Kirsten Corbin, Dean, Basic Skills and Special Programs, and Deborah Harrington, Executive Director of the California Community Colleges Success Network (3CSN).
- Assembly Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education, August 31, 2017, oversight hearing on the [Overview of Higher Education in California](#), testimony on behalf of the California Community Colleges provided by Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley. The second hearing of the Committee on [Ensuring the Master Plan Meets California's Workforce Needs](#) was held on November 1, 2017.
- Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy, August 30, 2017, oversight hearing on [Supporting a Just Transition to a Lower Carbon Economy](#), testimony on behalf of the California Community Colleges provided by Jim Caldwell, California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program.
- Assembly Committee on Higher Education and the Assembly Select Committee on Cybersecurity, October 10, 2017, joint oversight hearing on [Cybersecurity Education and the Needs of the Workforce](#), testimony on behalf of the California Community Colleges provided by Stephen Wright, Director & Sector Navigator for Information Communications Technologies and Digital Media, California Community Colleges and Donna Woods, Educator & Community Manager, California CyberHub Information and Communications Technologies & Digital Media, Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy.
- Assembly Select Committee on Veterans Employment and Education, Wednesday, October 25, 2017, oversight hearing on [Expanding Employment and Educational Opportunities for our Veteran Students](#), testimony on behalf of the California Community Colleges provided by Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley.

ADVOCATES LIST SERVE

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