



California Community Colleges

**Leading California's Future:
Preparing Students for a Changing
Economy**

2027-28 Board of Governors

Budget and Legislative Request

September 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Community Colleges Chancellor presents the 2027-28 System Budget and Legislative Request, outlining the investments and policy priorities needed to advance Vision 2030 and prepare Californians for the opportunities of tomorrow. Serving more than 2.2 million students across 116 colleges, the nation's largest and most diverse higher education system is a critical driver of educational attainment, workforce development, and economic mobility throughout the state.

Now at the midpoint of Vision 2030, the system has made remarkable progress toward advancing equity in access, equity in success, and equity in support. Over the past several years, the Legislature and Governor have made significant investments in the California Community Colleges to expand workforce development, modernize technology infrastructure, strengthen transfer and student success, and improve educational opportunities for millions of Californians. At the same time, California's economy is entering a period of profound transformation driven by advances in artificial intelligence and the transition to a green economy. Community colleges are uniquely positioned to prepare students for these emerging opportunities by equipping learners with durable skills that employers increasingly demand.

The Board of Governors' 2027-28 Budget and Legislative Request continues to advance Vision 2030 by prioritizing core operations, accountability, and measurable outcomes. As a new Administration prepares to shape California's next chapter, this request offers a practical roadmap for sustaining recent progress, maximizing the return on the state's investments, and ensuring that California's community colleges remain the state's primary engine for economic mobility.

Overall, the 2027-28 Shared Advocacy Request, “Leading California’s Future: Preparing Students for a Changing Economy,” includes **\$351.5 million** in one-time and **\$298.2 million** in ongoing Proposition 98 resources, along with a few proposals for technical policy changes.

2027-28 Budget Requests Summary

Core Resources

Base funding is essential to sustaining progress under Vision 2030 and maximizing the state's recent investments in the California Community Colleges. Stable, ongoing resources strengthen institutional capacity and enable colleges to continue advancing student success while meeting the evolving needs. Additionally, continued investment in core resources allows campuses to build on recent gains, thereby contributing to sustainable, long-term progress.

Proposal	Total Request
Student Centered Funding Formula and Base Adjustments	\$60.8 million one-time Proposition 98 \$185.7 million ongoing Proposition 98
Investments in District Capacity	\$60 million ongoing Proposition 98 \$45 million one-time Proposition 4 \$70 million ongoing General Fund

Equitable Baccalaureate Attainment

One of Vision 2030's clear goals is to create seamless educational pathways from high school through community college, transfer, and finally, to baccalaureate degree completion. Strengthening this continuum through strategic investments will enable more seamless student pathways and help more Californians successfully complete a bachelor's degree.

Proposal	Total Request
California Early College Demonstration Initiative Phase II	\$24 million one-time Proposition 98 \$1.5 million ongoing Proposition 98
Transfer Success Initiative	\$20 million one-time Proposition 98
Program Pathways Mapper	\$6.7 million one-time Proposition 98 \$6 million ongoing Proposition 98

Equitable Workforce and Economic Development

California's economic future depends on expanding opportunity and connecting more residents to quality careers. Community colleges are uniquely positioned to connect learners with high-quality careers and create pathways to family-sustaining jobs. At the same time, continued investment in workforce programs will position more Californians to participate in and benefit from the state's economic growth.

Proposal	Total Request
Strong Workforce Program Restoration	\$60 million one-time Proposition 98
Employer Tax Credit Pilot Program	\$4.5 million ongoing General Fund
Internship Demonstration Project	\$5 million one-time Proposition 98
Apprenticeship Degree Pathways Demonstration Project	\$25 million one-time Proposition 98

The Future of Learning and Generative Artificial Intelligence

California Community Colleges must build the infrastructure necessary to ensure students, faculty, and colleges can effectively participate in an increasingly AI-driven economy. While AI presents significant opportunities to improve teaching, learning, student services, and operational efficiency, realizing these benefits requires coordinated investments in statewide and local infrastructure. Without a deliberate strategy, colleges will adopt AI unevenly, creating disparities in access, capacity, cybersecurity, and student outcomes across regions and communities.

To support equitable, secure, and effective AI adoption across the system, California Community Colleges seek investments in three interconnected areas: workforce capacity and professional learning, shared technology and cybersecurity infrastructure, and local innovation that can be scaled statewide.

Proposal	Total Request
Innovative Teaching and Artificial Intelligence Professional Development	\$10 million one-time Proposition 98 \$30 million ongoing Proposition 98
Technology Interoperability Block Grant	\$100 million one-time Proposition 98

Proposal	Total Request
Shared Agentic Artificial Intelligence Enablement Infrastructure	\$6 million one-time Proposition 98 \$3 million ongoing Proposition 98
Artificial Intelligence Workflows for Operational Efficiency and Classroom Success	\$9 million one-time Proposition 98 \$12 million ongoing Proposition 98
Artificial Intelligence Innovation Fund	\$25 million one-time Proposition 98

Chancellor's Office Capacity

The Chancellor's Office serves as the backbone of the California Community Colleges system, providing the leadership and infrastructure needed to drive statewide priorities and support institutional success. In recent years, the scope and complexity of these responsibilities have grown substantially, driven by increasing statewide and national demands for greater accountability, innovation, data capacity, and measurable student outcomes. To meet these demands, we request 18 new permanent positions within the Chancellor's Office to provide timely guidance to colleges, strengthen oversight of public investments, support continuous improvement, and scale innovative practices that improve student outcomes.

Proposal	Total Request
Requests for Chancellor's Office Positions	\$3.3 million ongoing General Fund

In total, the budget request reflects \$351.5 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund requests, \$298.2 million in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund requests, approximately \$77.8 million in General Fund requests, and \$45 million in one-time Proposition 4 bond fund requests.

2027-28 Policy Requests Summary

Proposal	Request
California Apprenticeship Initiative Program Flexibility	Transition the California Apprenticeship Initiative from a competitive grant program to a flexible categorical funding model that provides ongoing support for apprenticeship capacity, employer engagement, and statewide program expansion.
Distance Education Access for Incarcerated Students	Authorize cross-enrollment in distance education for incarcerated students, allowing them to enroll in courses offered by other community colleges to complete their education.
Economic and Workforce Development Program Modernization	Modernize the Economic and Workforce Development Program through statutory updates that strengthen regional coordination.
Streamline Legislative Reporting Requirements	Enact targeted statutory changes to modernize legislative reporting requirements by aligning reporting cycles with program implementation timelines and ensuring reporting requirements reflect available data.