



Executive Order: 2020-03

Effective Date: April 6, 2020

Title: Temporary Suspension of Various Specified Regulations Regarding Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Expenditure Restrictions to Address the Continuity of Education During the COVID-19 Declared State of Emergency

Executive Order 2020-03 is issued pursuant to Resolution of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors No. 2020-01 and title 5, section 52020, of the California Code of Regulations, which confers on the Chancellor emergency powers to take all appropriate actions, including the issuance of executive orders, to allow for the continued education of community college students during the period of emergency proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020. This authority allows the temporary suspension of regulations adopted by the Board of Governors and the suspension of local rules and regulations that are a barrier to the continuity of educational services.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 4, 2020 continues; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting public health measures, such as required social distancing, have substantially disrupted instruction in the California Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, to address the disruption of instruction, community college districts throughout the state have converted face-to-face courses to online or alternative formats, which has led to many faculty members and students experiencing these instructional methods for the first time; and

WHEREAS, teaching online and in alternative formats requires certain technology that is not readily available to all community college students and places additional financial burdens on both students and community colleges; and



WHEREAS, students and community college districts who are adversely impacted by the sudden change in instructional methods should not be unnecessarily burdened by circumstances beyond their control; and

WHEREAS, the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) offers certain qualified students the opportunity to obtain grants and loans for their unmet financial needs during an academic year; and

WHEREAS, community colleges may expend EOPS funds to cover certain supplemental costs with financial limitations. These limitations prevent colleges from using available EOPS funds to the maximum extent needed during this declared state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the timely procurement of technology needed to support the transition to remote instruction is imperative during the declared emergency. EOPS funding for technology procurement requires approval by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. This approval will cause unnecessary delay in the procurement of technology that is required for remote or online instruction.

THEREFORE, as the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, I declare the following:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. Resolution of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors No. 2020-01 and title 5, section 52020, of the California Code of Regulations, authorize me to take all appropriate actions to allow for the continued education of community college students during the period of emergency proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020, including the temporary suspension of regulations adopted by the Board and the suspension of local rules and regulations that are a barrier to the continuity of educational services.



3. Due to the existing state of emergency, strict adherence to the following sections of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations will create barriers to the continuity of educational services and are hereby temporarily suspended:
 - a. Section 56254 (a) (c): the requirements that a grant award “not to exceed \$900” and the total award amount “not to exceed \$1800” are suspended.
 - b. Section 56254 (d): the requirement that a grant award “be disbursed to each student equally among terms in the college academic year” is suspended.
 - c. Section 56258 (a): the requirement that an emergency loan “not exceed \$300 in a single academic year,” and that the loan be “repaid within the academic year” are suspended. However, districts authorizing such emergency loans must require them to be repaid within a reasonable timeframe.
 - d. Section 56295 (a): the requirement that certain supplemental costs “shall not exceed 10%” of a college’s EOPS allocation is suspended.
 - e. Section 56295 (b): the requirement that a request to purchase “hardware and/or software” be approved by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges is suspended.
4. Any local district board policies or regulations in conflict with the above regulatory suspensions shall also be suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency or the expiration of Section 52020, whichever is earlier.
5. This executive order shall remain in full force and effect as long as the declaration of the COVID-19 state of emergency is in place, or the expiration of Section 52020, whichever is earlier.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor

Dated: April 06, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EOO', positioned above a horizontal line.