

2024 Legislative Guiding Principles

WHAT GUIDES OUR WORK

Building on the foundations of the Vision for Success (2017) and the Governor’s Roadmap for the Future (2022), and Vision 2030 reintroduces the importance of equitable access, support, and success to meet the needs of today’s students and tomorrow’s workforce. Vision 2030 envisions a higher education system that is more inclusive of all Californians, with access points for every learner across race, ethnicity, region, class, and gender to enter a pathway with tailored supports throughout their academic journey. By leading with equity, dismantling systemic barriers, and changing structures to create equitable opportunities and supports, California’s community colleges will enable the state to achieve its goal of 70% postsecondary degree and certificate attainment among working-aged Californians by 2030. The Vision 2030 roadmap will guide our policy advocacy efforts and serve as a basis for determining the Chancellor’s Office recommendations on legislative proposals.

2024 LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board of Governors provides representation, advocacy, and accountability for the California Community Colleges (Education Code Section 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 of the Board of Governors Section 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.

Every year, the Legislature introduces thousands of bills and hundreds of them will have an impact on community colleges or higher education in general. To help guide the Chancellor’s Office in engaging in matters before the state and federal governments, the following a set of guiding principles will provide staff with a baseline framework:

- 1.** The Chancellor’s Office supports legislation that strengthens the California Community Colleges ability to meet the goals established in the Vision 2030, advances the priorities established in the annual Budget and Legislative Request, and is consistent with prior statements of Board of Governors policy.
- 2.** The Chancellor’s Office supports local governance. The Chancellor’s Office strives to remain remain neutral on legislative matters affecting local board operations, local collective bargaining, or a particular community college district, unless the proposal

conflicts with the system-wide priorities of the Board of Governors, or otherwise inhibits our system's ability to meet the goals outlined in Vision 2030.

- 3.** The Chancellor's Office will engage on legislation that is statewide in nature, where the justification for state intervention is compelling, and where the Chancellor's Office position is supported by available data, evidence, and best practices.
- 4.** The Chancellor's Office supports the fiscal integrity of the system and efforts to maximize resources available to California Community Colleges within and outside of Proposition 98. In general, the Chancellor's Office is concerned with unfunded mandates, and will not support legislation imposing new such mandates on our colleges or the system office, except under extraordinary circumstances.
- 5.** The Chancellor's Office legislative positions will aim to ensure that administrative obligations imposed by law upon local districts and the Chancellor's Office are equitably funded, provide reasonable time for implementation, maintain flexibility, and serve the interests of students and the system.
- 6.** The Chancellor's Office will advocate for equitable representation by the California Community Colleges on appropriate boards, commissions, task forces, study groups, and other bodies that may have an impact on the system. In general, the Chancellor's Office is concerned with any legislation that undermines the authority of the California Community Colleges to serve as equal partners with the other education segments.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The California Community Colleges' commitment to equity is at the core of Vision 2030. It is embodied in Vision 2030's three goals: Equity in Success, Equity in Access, and Equity in Support. The Chancellor's Office will support legislative proposals that focus on these three goals.

Equity in Success

Legislation that increases, with equity, the number of students who complete a meaningful educational outcome, attain a baccalaureate degree, and earn a living wage. This can include proposals that improve gateway course placement, innovate teaching and learning opportunities, streamline pathways to students' educational goal, and eliminate unnecessary duplication of courses.

Equity in Access

Legislation that equitably increases the number of students attending a California community college, with particular emphasis on the number of underserved Californians. This can include collaboration across segments to improve transparency and data

sharing, processes that support incoming students and transfer students, investments in apprenticeship opportunities, and support for workforce development and retraining.

Equity in Support

Legislation that equitably increases the number of students receiving state and federal aid for which they are eligible to better support their educational journey and decreases the number of units in excess of 60 units for the Associate Degree for Transfer. This can include innovations that expand access to childcare, food and housing assistance, mental health resources, and other academic, financial, and social supports.