

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Business Officers
Academic Senate Presidents

FROM: James E. Todd, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
Samuel Lee, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor

RE: Credit for Prior Learning Funding (2025-26)

[Assembly Bill 123](#) (2025-26 Higher Education Budget Trailer Bill) appropriates funding to advance the statewide Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Initiative. This initiative supports implementation of shared CPL technology, coordinated professional development and technical assistance, and student-centered policies and procedures. These efforts align with [Vision 2030](#), the Chancellor's Office [CPL Workplan](#), and the [California Master Plan for Career Education](#). Collectively, these statewide priorities aim to strengthen equitable access, accelerate student completion, and improve career outcomes for at least 250,000 Californians by 2030.

As California continues to confront the needs of working learners and adult students seeking faster, more affordable paths toward economic mobility, expanding CPL is no longer optional—it is essential. This investment represents a pivotal opportunity to scale CPL as a powerful strategy for recognizing learning wherever it occurs, reducing time to credential, and meeting the needs of California's workforce and communities. To maximize impact, the distribution of funds is aligned with systemwide expectations for progress, transparency, and return on investment in expanding CPL opportunities across all colleges. As part of this statewide investment, each college must commit to using these funds to advance the three systemwide Credit for Prior Learning priorities described below.

Funding Overview

Each California Community College and each noncredit institution may receive \$50,000 to support local Credit for Prior Learning implementation in accordance with AB 123 and Vision 2030 goals. To receive these funds, the Chief Instructional Officer for each institution must [submit this required survey](#) by Jan. 15, 2026 to **confirm the institution's commitment to advancing the three broad priority outcomes outlined below**. College districts will receive funds in Spring 2026, with the expectation that they are fully expended by June 30, 2028. This process ensures an intentional investment in statewide CPL goals and reflects the state's expectation that

institutions use this one-time allocation to demonstrate measurable progress for working learners.

Priority Outcomes

This funding opportunity prioritizes progress on systemwide Credit for Prior Learning outcomes that directly support working learners and advance Vision 2030 goals. Colleges should utilize these funds to make meaningful, measurable progress in offering CPL opportunities, documenting CPL activity, and increasing the number of students who successfully apply prior learning toward program applicability and completion.

- **Awarding CPL Through Joint Services Transcripts (JSTs).** The first priority area requires advancing the Veteran Sprint goals by uploading Joint Services Transcripts (JSTs) into the [Mapping Articulated Pathways](#) (MAP) platform for at least the number of enrolled veterans reported to MIS for the 2024-25 academic year, by awarding and transcribing Basic Training credit when applicable to a student's program of study and transfer destination, and by awarding and transcribing additional JST-based credits that align with a student's academic program.
- **Implementing Statewide Credit Recommendations.** A second priority area promotes implementation of statewide credit recommendations developed through the ASCCC Pathways to Credit initiative. Institutions are expected to adopt or adapt applicable statewide recommendations posted on the MAP website and in the MAP platform to support equitable and consistent credit for prior learning opportunities throughout the system.
- **Proactively Offering CPL.** A third priority area requires establishing or strengthening local procedures to identify and screen incoming and continuing students who may be eligible for CPL. This includes documenting CPL opportunities offered and credit transcribed in the MAP platform based on each student's program of study and intended transfer pathway.

Allowable Use of Funds

Funds must be used to advance the three priority outcomes outlined above and Vision 2030 systemwide CPL objectives. Allowable uses include developing or enhancing processes to identify and notify students who may qualify for CPL during exploration, admissions, onboarding, and education planning; increased coordination, student engagement, and counseling efforts designed to expand CPL; improving local procedures to award credit for industry certifications, military service, workplace training, foreign credentials, and other forms of prior learning; and establishing or updating academic senate-driven policies that honor statewide credit recommendations. Funds are expected to be fully expended by June 30, 2028.

Outcomes Reporting

Outcome tracking will primarily occur through the MAP platform. Colleges must also continue to ensure accurate CPL data via MIS reporting. This data will be used to monitor systemwide progress toward the three priority outcomes and to assess the return on this investment in support of working learners. Publicly visible outcomes will include the number of military and non-military students served, CPL units available for application to student pathways, and CPL units transcribed. Internal MAP outcomes will include types of CPL credit awarded for Basic Training, locally articulated CPL units available for application and transcription, evidence of CPL Review Request processing, and the number of students awarded CPL and total credits awarded, disaggregated by academic field and method of assessment.

The Chancellor's Office and the MAP team will provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to assist institutions in meeting local and statewide CPL goals.

Conclusion

As districts utilize these funds to support the priorities outlined in this memo, additional implementation guidance and optional technical assistance opportunities will continue to be made available through the Chancellor's Office and the MAP Team. The intentional distribution of these funds signals the state's expectation that colleges commit to strengthening CPL structures, processes, and student supports to demonstrate clear progress and a strong return on investment in service of working learners.

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Samuel Lee at SLee@CCCCO.edu.

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