



May 29, 2026

ESS 26-44 | Via Email

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Business Officers
Guided Pathways Program
Student Equity and Achievement Program
Research and Planning

FROM: Erin Larson, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Strategic Educational and Workforce Initiatives

RE: Guided Pathways Grant Program Updates

This memorandum provides California community colleges with updates, clarifications, and reminders regarding the Guided Pathways Grant Program (Guided Pathways) including expenditure deadlines, guidance on effective use of funds, reporting requirements, and available Guided Pathways resources.

The principles and practices of Guided Pathways remain central to the work of California community colleges and continue to serve as a foundational framework for institutional transformation, advancing student equity and achievement and supporting Vision 2030 goals and statewide priorities.

Background and Overview

The Guided Pathways Grant Program was established in 2017 to support the California community colleges in adopting the Guided Pathways framework, a nationally recognized approach for redesigning institutions to address persistent challenges in student completion, retention, and support. Pursuant to [Education Code § 88921](#), the program aligns existing student success efforts, strengthen institutional capacity for data-informed planning and implementation, and create clear, structured pathways that improve student outcomes, reduce time to completion, and expand access to postsecondary education and high-wage career opportunities.

The Guided Pathways framework is grounded in the following four key pillars, which have been embedded across college operations and student support structures:

- 1. Clarify the path** – Provide clear program maps and course sequences aligned with student goals
- 2. Enter the path** – Support students in choosing and beginning a program of study early
- 3. Stay on the path** – Provide integrated academic and non-academic supports to sustain progress
- 4. Ensure learning** – Ensure that students achieve learning outcomes and workforce competencies

Please refer to [Education Code § 88921\(d\)](#) for specific activities and practices for each of the four Guided Pathways pillars. The priorities outlined in [Vision 2030](#) build upon these pillars, reinforcing the role of Guided Pathways as a foundational framework for advancing equitable student success across the system.

Guided Pathways Funding: History and Intent

The State of California provided one-time funding allocations to support Guided Pathways implementation, aimed at building institutional capacity, supporting planning and redesigning efforts, and advancing transformational, student-centered change:

- **2017–18 State Budget:** Initial funding of \$150 million to support implementation over five years.
- **2021–22 State Budget (AB 132):** An additional \$50 million in one-time funding to continue implementation and align Guided Pathways with key student success initiatives, including the Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program, Associate Degree for Transfer, Zero Textbook Cost, California Adult Education Program, and Strong Workforce Program.

Colleges receiving these funds committed to integrating Guided Pathways into institutional structures and sustaining this work beyond the grant period.

Deadline to Expend Guided Pathways Funds

The deadline to expend Guided Pathways implementation funds is **June 30, 2026**. Colleges are encouraged to make every effort to fully expend these funds by this date, consistent with the original intent of supporting Guided Pathways implementation. The Chancellor's Office recognizes that some colleges may require additional time to fully expend funds beyond the June 30, 2026 deadline. As such, please refer to the following guidance on Proposition 98 funds:

- Colleges are strongly encouraged to spend funds within the same year they are allocated.
- If funds are not fully expended, remaining balances should be prioritized for expenditure in the following year. Timely use of funds remains critical to advancing student success and meeting local needs.

- Funds should be used to support the intent of the grant ([Education Code § 88921](#)).
- See [Effective Use of Prop 98 Spending Guidance Memo](#)

To receive support with developing a spend-down plan or exploring allowable expenditure strategies for Guided Pathways funds, please contact the Chancellor’s Office Guided Pathways Team at GuidedPathwaysInfo@CCCCO.edu.

Continuation of Guided Pathways Work

While dedicated Guided Pathways implementation funding is nearing its conclusion, the principles and practices of Guided Pathways are embedded in the work of California community colleges. The **Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program** is statutorily aligned with and serves as a key mechanism to support the ongoing sustainability of Guided Pathways efforts.

[Education Code 78222\(a\)](#) establishes that SEA funds advance systemwide goals to improve student outcomes and eliminate equity gaps, particularly for underrepresented populations by:

- (A) Implementing activities and practices pursuant to the Guided Pathways Grant Program.
- (B) Ensuring students complete their educational goals and a defined course of study.
- (C) Providing quality curriculum, instruction, and support services to students who enter college needing additional preparation in English and mathematics to ensure these students complete a course of study in a timely manner.

Given the SEA Program’s alignment with Guided Pathways, colleges are encouraged to coordinate SEA and Guided Pathways efforts to ensure continued progress and momentum. Local SEA and Guided Pathways leads may collaborate to strategically leverage SEA funding in support of ongoing implementation of Guided Pathways. For additional details, please refer to [SEA Program Expenditure Guidelines](#) and [Guided Pathways Expenditure Guidelines \(CCCCO.edu\)](#), as well as the [Compendium of Allocations and Resources](#).

Remaining Guided Pathways Reporting Requirements

While stand-alone Guided Pathways reporting has concluded, colleges are still required to capture Guided Pathways-related activities through existing reporting processes. Activities reported through the annual SEA Vision-Aligned Report (VAR) will be used to meet Guided Pathways and SEA legislative reporting requirements. No additional reporting is required.

Reporting Deadline	Reporting Tool	Activity Period
*Dec. 15, 2026, and annually thereafter	VAR Tool (SEA VAR Report)	Fiscal Year 2025–26 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

** Reporting deadlines are subject to change based on any applicable legislative updates.*

Support and Resources

After six years of dedicated collaboration with the Chancellor's Office, the Success Center at the Foundation for California Community Colleges will conclude its direct Guided Pathways implementation support on June 30, 2026. This transition reflects the closeout of a multi-year effort and aligns with the conclusion of state funding for direct implementation support services. On behalf of the Chancellor's Office, we extend our sincere appreciation to the **Success Center at the Foundation for California Community Colleges** and the **Guided Pathways Regional Coordinators** for their leadership, partnership, and support with the statewide implementation of Guided Pathways.

The Chancellor's Office remains committed to supporting colleges through:

- Continued system-level support from the Chancellor's Office Guided Pathways team
- Future webinars and professional development opportunities
- Technical assistance and consultation
- Access to tools and resources to advance Guided Pathways implementation (see Appendix A for a table of resources)

The Chancellor's Office recognizes and deeply appreciates the commitment and work undertaken by all 116 colleges in implementing and advancing Guided Pathways. These efforts have strengthened the foundation for equitable student success. To continue advancing progress, colleges are encouraged to:

- Complete timely expenditure on remaining Guided Pathways funds
- Continue integrating Guided Pathways into institutional practices
- Leverage SEA funding and other resources, such as the Student Support Block Grant, to build on this work

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and dedication to supporting student success through Guided Pathways.

For questions or additional guidance, please contact the Chancellor's Office Guided Pathways Team at GuidedPathwaysInfo@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor
Rowena M. Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor
Christopher Ferguson, Executive Vice Chancellor

Appendix A: Guided Pathways Resources

Resource Name	Resource Details/Links
Chancellor’s Office Guided Pathways Team	Email: GuidedPathwaysInfo@CCCCO.edu Haley Dillon, Dean: HDillon@CCCCO.edu Eric Nelson, Specialist: ENelson@CCCCO.edu Jenny Saechao, Specialist: JSaechao@CCCCO.edu Mike Tran, Analyst: MTran@CCCCO.edu
Guided Pathways Listserv	Send email to GuidedPathwaysInfo@CCCCO.edu if you would like to be added to the GP Listserv
Guided Pathways Playbook/Toolkit	California Guided Pathways Playbook California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO.edu)
Guided Pathways Website	Guided Pathways California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO.edu)
Vision Resource Center	Home - Vision Resource Center (CCCCO.edu) (Join the Chancellor's Office Guided Pathways Community in Vision Resource Center)
Guided Pathways Related Education Codes	88920 , 88921 , 88922 , 78222
Guided Pathways Expenditure Guidelines	Guided Pathways Expenditure Guidelines