

**15-DAY NOTICE OF MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION  
REGARDING  
BURDEN-FREE ACCESS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

**15-Day Notice published October 28, 2024**

The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges hereby provides notice of changes to the above-referenced proposed regulatory action that was the subject of a public hearing on September 23, 2024. Section 206, subdivision (c), of the Procedures and Standing Orders of the Board of Governors requires the Board to re-notice a proposed regulatory action where the proposed regulations have been previously considered, are being modified, and the modifications are substantial and sufficiently related to the text of the previously-proposed regulations.

**CHANGES TO THE TEXT**

Following the 45-day comment period that ended on October 24, 2024, and the September 23, 2024, Board meeting, changes were made to this regulatory action in proposed section 54221(a)(1) and (c). The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office will present this regulatory action to the Board of Governors at its November 18, 2024 meeting. The changes are submitted for an additional 15-day comment period effective today, October 28, 2024.

The changes to the proposed regulatory action are denoted by double underline for additions to the text and ~~double-strikeout~~ for deletions from the text.

**WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Any interested person may submit written comments relevant to the changes to the proposed regulatory action subject to this 15-day notice. The Chancellor's Office will respond to comments received that are related to the revisions made to title 5, California Code of Regulations, section 54221(a)(1) and (c) after the close of the 15-day comment period. Comments should be addressed to:

Regulations Coordinator  
California Community Colleges  
Chancellor's Office  
1102 Q Street, Suite 636  
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549  
Email: [regcomments@cccco.edu](mailto:regcomments@cccco.edu)

Comments must be received by the Regulations Coordinator prior to 4:00 p.m. on November 12, 2024. All written comments received by Chancellor's Office staff during the public comment period are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

### **CHANGES OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION**

Following the public hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board of Governors may adopt the proposed regulatory action substantially as described in this notice or may modify the proposed regulatory action if the modifications are sufficiently related to the original text.

### **INFORMATIVE DIGEST**

The California Community Colleges have a long-standing policy of full and open access to ensure that higher education is available and affordable for everyone. While existing infrastructure successfully delivers comparatively low tuition rates, generous tuition waivers, and some financial aid, these measures are outmatched by ever-increasing non-tuition expenses. In particular, the burden associated with accessing instructional materials required for course and program participation—textbooks, supplemental materials, and supplies—weighs heavily on students, particularly on the most marginalized, exacerbating inequity in their access to and success in higher education.

As an important strategy to advance the Board of Governors' July 2023 Resolution on Instructional Material Affordability, this regulatory action aims to prioritize the alleviation of student burdens related to acquiring required instructional materials before their required use, highlighting the importance of first day access to zero-cost resources, and institutionalizing student-centered best practices across the system.

There has been stakeholder engagement and discussion after the original regulatory action was noticed. The Chancellor's Office has made two minor and substantive changes to the section 54221, as follows:

In subdivision (a)(1), the phrase “or feasible” was inserted to clarify that district policies addressing “adapting or adopting open educational resources for some or all textbook and ancillary material” includes “when the option is available or feasible.”

In subdivision (c), the phrase “and academic freedom” was inserted to clarify that faculty maintains the academic freedom to choose instructional materials.

## **ESTIMATED COST OR SAVINGS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

The estimated cost or savings of the proposed amendments are anticipated to be as follows:

Mandate on local agencies or community college districts: *None*.

Cost or savings to state agencies: *None*

Costs to local agencies or community college districts for which reimbursement would be required pursuant to part 7 (commencing with section 17500) of division 4, of title 2, of the Government Code: *None*

Other non-discretionary cost or savings imposed on community college districts: *None*

Cost or savings in federal funding to state agencies: *None*

## **CONTACT PERSON**

Inquiries concerning the content of these regulations may be directed to:

Rebecca Ruan-O’Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor  
California Community Colleges  
Chancellor’s Office  
[Regcomments@cccco.edu](mailto:Regcomments@cccco.edu)

Inquiries concerning the regulatory process may be directed to the Regulations Coordinator at [regcomments@cccco.edu](mailto:regcomments@cccco.edu).

## **TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS AND CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS**

Copies of the proposed regulatory action subject to this 15-day notice are attached as noted above. Information upon which the proposal is based may be obtained online at:

[Office of General Counsel - Pending Regulatory Action](#)

Those who receive the Board of Governors Agenda package for the November 18, 2024, meeting can find a further description of the proposal and the full text of the regulations. You may also request a copy of the proposal from the Regulations Coordinator using the contact information provided above.