



## 2026 REPORT

# Fifty Percent Law

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Chancellor





California  
Community  
Colleges

**SONYA CHRISTIAN**  
Chancellor

January 10, 2026

Secretary of the Senate  
Erika Contreras  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: 2024-2025 Annual Report: Payment of Salaries of Classroom Instructors (Fifty Percent Law)**

Dear Secretary Contreras:

Pursuant to California Education Code section 84362, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to release the 2026 Fifty Percent Law Report. Statute requires each community college district to allocate at least 50% of its annual education expenses, as defined by law, to the salaries and benefits of classroom instructors. The following report provides additional information on the Fifty Percent Law including:

- Fifty Percent Law Requirements and Administration
- 2024-25 Fifty Percent Law Deficiencies
- 2024-25 Fifty Percent Law District Compliance
- Fifty Percent Law Five Year Trend

If you have questions about this report, please contact Chris Ferguson, Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance and Strategic Initiatives, at [Chris.Ferguson@CCCCO.edu](mailto:Chris.Ferguson@CCCCO.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonya" being more prominent than the last name "Christian".

Sonya Christian, Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

CC:  
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Office of Legislative Counsel

**Chancellor's Office**

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# 2026 FIFTY PERCENT LAW REPORT

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Prepared By

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**

College Finance and Facilities Planning Division



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## INTRODUCTION

The Fifty Percent Law, established under Education Code section [84362](#), and implemented through Title 5, sections [59204- 59214](#), requires California community college districts to spend at least half of their annual Current Expense of Education (CEE) on salaries and benefits for classroom instructors. The intent of the law is to ensure that a significant portion of educational spending directly supports classroom instruction.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) is required to report annually to the Board of Governors for California Community College on district compliance, identify districts that fall below the 50 percent requirement, and administer statutory remedies when necessary. Districts that do not meet the requirement must either qualify for an exemption or submit a plan to correct their deficiency. For districts receiving state apportionment funds, the Chancellor's Office may direct county offices of education to withhold apportionments until a corrective plan is approved.

## FIFTY PERCENT LAW: REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

### COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT

Each district must ensure that at least 50 percent of its CEE is dedicated to salaries and benefits of classroom instructors. Instructional activities, as defined in Title 5, sections [58710](#) and [58720](#), include all costs directly tied to teaching students. Qualifying expenditures include:

- **Academic Salaries**
  - Salaries for contract, regular, and temporary instructors teaching approved courses.
  - Prorated salaries for administrators with teaching assignments.
  - Salaries for instructors on sabbatical leave or extra duty days.
- **Instructional Services Agreements (ISA)**
  - Direct instructional costs associated with ISA contracts.
- **Instructional Aides**
  - Salaries for aides assisting instructors in classroom instruction, including computer labs, under direct supervision.
  - Only duties classified as "Direct Instruction" qualify under law.
- **Applicable Benefits**
  - Benefits provided to be associated with qualifying instructional salaries.

CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

The chancellor and the Board of Governors oversee statewide administration of the Fifty Percent Law. To fulfill this role, the Chancellor’s Office reviews annual financial and budget reports, and evaluates independent audit findings for every district. Each district’s compliance calculation is independently verified through the annual audit process required under state law.

STATEWIDE COMPLIANCE TRENDS

Table 1. District Compliance with the Fifty Percent Law

Number of districts by compliance percentage, fiscal years 2020-21 through 2024-25:

District Percentage	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Below 50%	4	5	4	4	3
Between 50 to 51%	29	37	31	38	35
Between 51% to 52%	12	8	13	10	16
Above 52%	28	23	25	21	19

Narrative Summary

Over the five-year period, most districts are concentrated near the compliance threshold, with fewer districts exceeding it by a comfortable margin. While very few districts fall below 50%, the decline in districts above 52% suggests that compliance is becoming more fragile, and districts are struggling to maintain higher levels.

For additional details, see [Attachment 1: Five-Year Trend Data by District](#).

DISTRICTS NOT MEETING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024-25

Three districts did not meet the 50 percent requirement in 2024-25. Table 2 identifies each district, the amount of the deficiency, and whether they receive state general apportionments.

Table 2. Districts Not in Compliance with the Fifty Percent Law

District	Deficiency	State Apportionments	Basic Aid Status
Calbright	\$4,362,243	None	No
Napa Valley	\$1,132,149	None	Yes
San Mateo County	\$17,546,691	None	Yes

Excess Tax School Entities (Basic Aid)

A Basic Aid (also called excess tax) district is funded entirely through local property taxes and enrollment fees. Because their local revenue exceeds the state funding entitlement under Education Code sections, [84750.5](#), or [84751](#), these districts receive no state general

apportionments. As a result, the Chancellor’s Office cannot withhold state general funds as an enforcement mechanism for non-compliance.

Districts that do not meet the Fifty Percent Law must prepare a plan to remedy the unexempted deficiency in the following fiscal year. For districts receiving apportionments, the chancellor must direct the county office education to withhold funds equal to the deficiency until an approved plan is submitted. This enforcement mechanism does not apply to Basic Aid districts, limiting available fiscal oversight tools.

For additional details, see [Attachment 2: District Compliance for 2024-25](#).

## CONCLUSION

Statewide compliance with the Fifty Percent Law remains stable, with the most districts meeting the statutory requirement each year. In 2024–25, only three districts fell below the 50 percent threshold, two of which are Basic Aid districts that do not receive state general apportionments. This limits the enforcement tools available to the Chancellor’s Office and presents ongoing challenges in ensuring consistent compliance among community-supported districts.

The Chancellor’s Office will continue to provide technical assistance, monitor district reporting through annual financial data and audits, and support non-compliant districts in developing corrective plans. Accurate coding of instructional activities and adherence to direct instruction definitions remain essential to preserving instructional investment and upholding the statutory purpose of the Fifty Percent Law.

## ATTACHMENT 1: FIVE-YEAR TREND DATA BY DISTRICT

### District Fifty Percent Law Five Year Trend

District	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Allan Hancock	50.17%	50.48%	51.21%	50.07%	50.01%
Antelope Valley	50.00%	50.43%	50.57%	50.95%	52.47%
Barstow	50.44%	50.12%	52.41%	50.61%	50.04%
Butte-Glenn	54.33%	53.41%	52.57%	52.23%	50.66%
Cabrillo	53.49%	52.86%	52.38%	50.39%	51.06%
Calbright <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	28.85%
Cerritos	59.82%	53.99%	55.76%	55.62%	57.53%
Chabot-Las Positas	54.84%	53.53%	53.92%	50.66%	51.42%
Chaffey	50.23%	50.11%	50.53%	50.77%	50.43%

<sup>1</sup> Calbright was established in July 2018. The statute allows Calbright a seven-year start-up period (2018–2025) to refine its programs and operations before full compliance milestones are enforced. Calbright became accredited on July 28, 2023, initiating its compliance timeline.

District	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Citrus	53.76%	51.03%	50.61%	50.86%	51.41%
Coast	51.07%	50.52%	50.81%	50.43%	52.74%
Compton	50.11%	50.24%	52.33%	50.36%	50.10%
Contra Costa	51.01%	48.03%	50.48%	50.88%	52.55%
Copper Mountain	50.33%	50.25%	50.02%	51.62%	50.98%
Desert	50.02%	50.36%	50.50%	50.83%	50.91%
El Camino	52.97%	52.32%	48.10%	54.79%	55.42%
Feather River	54.83%	58.21%	60.07%	54.01%	51.29%
Foothill-De Anza	52.04%	50.57%	50.83%	50.78%	50.76%
Gavilan	50.11%	50.08%	52.66%	51.01%	52.71%
Glendale	52.32%	50.35%	51.43%	50.92%	50.38%
Grossmont-Cuyamaca	53.52%	53.61%	52.79%	52.91%	51.59%
Hartnell	50.07%	50.30%	50.06%	50.77%	50.01%
Imperial	50.93%	55.07%	53.58%	50.39%	50.06%
Kern	51.45%	52.27%	51.94%	51.15%	51.25%
Lake Tahoe	50.92%	50.23%	51.12%	51.91%	51.94%
Lassen	50.01%	53.24%	58.65%	54.44%	51.53%
Long Beach	54.54%	54.68%	52.60%	51.65%	50.61%
Los Angeles	51.24%	50.15%	51.26%	52.59%	53.92%
Los Rios	54.54%	53.05%	52.97%	50.79%	50.26%
Marin	47.18%	47.48%	46.86%	46.69%	50.07%
Mendocino-Lake	50.18%	50.23%	51.36%	52.40%	53.54%
Merced	50.04%	50.25%	50.30%	50.64%	50.17%
MiraCosta	50.21%	50.32%	50.40%	50.09%	50.14%
Monterey Peninsula	53.17%	55.81%	53.75%	52.81%	53.01%
Mt. San Antonio	53.78%	52.82%	51.45%	50.68%	51.72%
Mt. San Jacinto	50.01%	50.73%	50.78%	50.19%	51.92%
Napa Valley	41.97%	42.72%	45.28%	44.57%	47.13%
North Orange	51.56%	50.26%	50.42%	50.86%	50.23%
Ohlone	51.78%	50.68%	50.57%	51.83%	51.76%
Palo Verde	52.17%	51.31%	53.38%	55.94%	50.51%
Palomar	50.92%	50.96%	50.54%	50.15%	50.03%
Pasadena Area	52.57%	50.29%	50.70%	52.76%	50.96%

District	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Peralta	50.04%	50.17%	50.22%	50.28%	50.20%
Rancho Santiago	54.16%	54.10%	53.65%	54.63%	54.11%
Redwoods	52.17%	56.19%	50.30%	53.70%	53.34%
Rio Hondo	57.48%	55.66%	55.96%	55.24%	59.15%
Riverside	53.84%	52.66%	53.13%	51.52%	52.77%
San Bernardino	50.49%	50.94%	50.90%	50.22%	50.23%
San Diego	50.60%	50.06%	50.45%	50.23%	50.12%
San Francisco	52.57%	50.03%	50.44%	51.55%	51.45%
San Joaquin Delta	51.09%	51.13%	50.15%	50.98%	50.03%
San Jose-Evergreen	50.28%	50.19%	50.09%	50.09%	50.05%
San Luis Obispo	51.97%	52.01%	52.04%	53.13%	52.63%
San Mateo	41.58%	41.06%	40.47%	41.10%	42.09%
Santa Barbara	57.66%	53.27%	52.71%	53.22%	53.93%
Santa Clarita	55.32%	52.55%	52.80%	52.38%	52.20%
Santa Monica	53.48%	51.51%	50.05%	50.05%	50.04%
Sequoias	53.86%	51.36%	51.63%	51.18%	51.56%
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity	52.21%	50.19%	51.20%	50.10%	50.47%
Sierra	51.94%	50.00%	50.40%	50.10%	50.97%
Siskiyou Joint	50.51%	47.78%	50.01%	53.41%	50.40%
Solano	51.88%	50.82%	54.97%	50.00%	50.00%
Sonoma County	53.26%	51.84%	50.60%	50.97%	51.28%
South Orange County	53.46%	52.64%	51.68%	53.94%	53.30%
Southwestern	50.41%	50.14%	56.77%	50.57%	53.54%
State Center	51.32%	51.14%	50.82%	50.05%	50.16%
Ventura County	50.05%	50.08%	50.10%	50.04%	51.10%
Victor Valley	50.20%	50.69%	51.13%	55.23%	50.11%
West Hills	53.22%	50.10%	50.13%	52.59%	53.44%
West Kern	50.34%	51.25%	52.62%	50.03%	50.84%
West Valley-Mission	50.54%	50.42%	52.01%	51.42%	51.93%
Yosemite	50.04%	50.13%	50.01%	50.48%	50.51%
Yuba	51.53%	52.98%	51.86%	50.12%	50.08%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>51.83%</b>	<b>51.01%</b>	<b>51.21%</b>	<b>51.15%</b>	<b>51.45%</b>

## ATTACHMENT 2: DISTRICT COMPLIANCE FOR 2024-25

### District Compliance Summary

District	Current Cost of Education	Instructional Salary Cost	Percent of Current Cost of Education
Allan Hancock	\$65,060,360	\$32,539,898	50.01%
Antelope Valley	90,464,873	47,462,624	52.47%
Barstow	21,950,543	10,984,883	50.04%
Butte-Glenn	89,590,935	45,389,973	50.66%
Cabrillo	82,690,424	42,220,518	51.06%
Calbright	20,620,398	5,947,956	28.85%
Cerritos	164,155,795	94,441,970	57.53%
Chabot-Las Positas	156,581,301	80,518,175	51.42%
Chaffey	146,696,580	73,978,158	50.43%
Citrus	92,339,108	47,472,547	51.41%
Coast	237,355,925	125,189,496	52.74%
Compton	35,806,031	17,937,181	50.10%
Contra Costa	229,551,704	120,625,631	52.55%
Copper Mountain	17,030,764	8,682,157	50.98%
Desert	90,775,013	46,214,056	50.91%
El Camino	167,805,032	93,004,738	55.42%
Feather River	16,074,566	8,244,051	51.29%
Foothill-De Anza	216,106,788	109,696,879	50.76%
Gavilan	43,159,534	22,749,575	52.71%
Glendale	123,081,721	62,009,923	50.38%
Grossmont-Cuyamaca	139,812,815	72,135,168	51.59%
Hartnell	64,302,329	32,157,341	50.01%
Imperial	63,122,961	31,599,601	50.06%
Kern	210,256,076	107,758,186	51.25%
Lake Tahoe	19,406,551	10,079,133	51.94%
Lassen	18,663,484	9,616,907	51.53%
Long Beach	183,111,246	92,679,108	50.61%
Los Angeles	839,416,423	452,571,626	53.92%
Los Rios	426,024,285	214,124,180	50.26%
Marin	72,202,336	36,154,729	50.07%

District	Current Cost of Education	Instructional Salary Cost	Percent of Current Cost of Education
Mendocino-Lake	32,753,041	17,535,447	53.54%
Merced	78,665,429	39,469,720	50.17%
MiraCosta	134,556,982	67,471,162	50.14%
Monterey Peninsula	55,117,020	29,217,461	53.01%
Mt. San Antonio	298,058,183	154,147,085	51.72%
Mt. San Jacinto	100,792,725	52,333,888	51.92%
Napa Valley	39,448,914	18,592,308	47.13%
North Orange	287,238,421	144,271,014	50.23%
Ohlone	68,498,351	35,452,392	51.76%
Palo Verde	24,137,924	12,192,551	50.51%
Palomar	148,535,725	74,313,230	50.03%
Pasadena Area	210,262,367	107,146,912	50.96%
Peralta	151,542,658	76,077,631	50.20%
Rancho Santiago	239,712,000	129,700,187	54.11%
Redwoods	42,708,676	22,781,365	53.34%
Rio Hondo	88,938,250	52,603,049	59.15%
Riverside	286,376,501	151,108,148	52.77%
San Bernardino	134,062,754	67,336,808	50.23%
San Diego	315,362,565	158,065,160	50.12%
San Francisco	168,589,378	86,741,438	51.45%
San Joaquin Delta	124,612,629	62,338,975	50.03%
San Jose-Evergreen	150,733,989	75,437,398	50.05%
San Luis Obispo	67,451,544	35,499,314	52.63%
San Mateo	221,881,482	93,394,050	42.09%
Santa Barbara	111,506,778	60,130,458	53.93%
Santa Clarita	124,994,531	65,244,169	52.20%
Santa Monica	211,300,335	105,734,478	50.04%
Sequoias	93,166,735	48,033,601	51.56%
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity	59,975,391	30,271,933	50.47%
Sierra	114,912,811	58,571,032	50.97%
Siskiyou Joint	18,514,578	9,330,518	50.40%
Solano	67,807,599	33,903,184	50.00%

District	Current Cost of Education	Instructional Salary Cost	Percent of Current Cost of Education
Sonoma County	152,186,033	78,040,527	51.28%
South Orange County	266,002,941	141,771,929	53.30%
Southwestern	143,315,831	76,727,380	53.54%
State Center	280,092,278	140,483,589	50.16%
Ventura County	211,602,699	108,137,509	51.10%
Victor Valley	99,146,095	49,681,575	50.11%
West Hills	41,947,167	22,417,619	53.44%
West Kern	31,444,722	15,985,107	50.84%
West Valley-Mission	165,569,405	85,980,638	51.93%
Yosemite	141,631,996	71,536,404	50.51%
Yuba	68,053,563	34,080,913	50.08%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>\$10,016,424,897</b>	<b>\$5,153,475,624</b>	<b>51.45%</b>



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