

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

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

RE: 2026–27 Student Equity and Achievement Program Allocations and Guidance

This memorandum provides guidance on 2026–27 Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program allocations, including the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) provided in the 2026–27 Budget Act. It also outlines the allocation methodology, payment schedule, expenditure guidelines, and reporting requirements associated with SEA funds.

Background

Education Code § 78222 established SEA Program through the consolidation of three predecessor programs: Student Success and Support Program (SSSP), Student Equity (SE), and the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI).

The SEA Program provides California community colleges with funding to support student achievement, promote equitable outcomes, and advance institutional efforts to remove barriers to student success, particularly for disproportionately impacted student populations. The program supports three core goals:

1. Implementing activities and practices aligned with the California Community Colleges Guided Pathways framework.
2. Ensuring students complete their educational goals and a defined course of study.
3. Providing high-quality curriculum, instruction, and support services to students who enter college underprepared in English and mathematics.

The statute also established each district's baseline SEA allocation percentage from the combined 2017–18 allocations from its predecessor programs. In 2018–19, districts collectively received \$455,446,521 in SEA funding and each district's proportionate share of that statewide allocation established the coefficients used to determine annual SEA appropriations. Beginning in 2021–22, the overall appropriation for SEA was reduced by five percent for statewide administrative operations and the remaining funds were, and continue to be, allocated proportionately based on each district's coefficient.

2026–27 SEA Funding Increase

The 2026–27 Enacted State Budget includes a **5.74 percent** COLA for the SEA Program, increasing statewide funding by \$30.1 million. As a result, beginning in 2026–27, total ongoing SEA Program funding is \$554,081,000 statewide. Minus the five percent for state administrative operations pursuant to Education Code section 78222, **\$526,376,950** is available for district allocations.

The **\$554,081,000** ongoing funding base will remain in effect unless modified through a future state budget act or other legislative action. Future COLA adjustments, if any, are subject to the annual state budget process and are not guaranteed by statute.

For more details, please see [2026–27 Joint Analysis of the Enacted Budget](#).

Distribution Method

SEA funds are disbursed to districts through apportionments. Districts determine allocations to their respective colleges.

To ensure districts and colleges had access to SEA funds at the beginning of the fiscal year, the Chancellor’s Office issued July and August 2026 Advanced Apportionment using 2025–26 SEA allocation amounts prior to enactment of the 2026–27 Budget Act. As a result, the SEA amounts reflected in the [2026–27 Advance Apportionment Exhibit A July 2026](#) represent 2025–26 allocation levels.

SEA allocations have been revised in the September 2026 Advance Apportionment to reflect the enacted 2026–27 Budget Act. Please refer to Appendix 1 within this memorandum or the [2026–27 Advance Apportionment Exhibit A - Sept. 2026 Revision](#) for your district’s 2026–27 SEA allocations.

Spending Guidelines

Districts and colleges must ensure expenditures are consistent with SEA statutory requirements, local Student Equity Plans, and Chancellor’s Office expenditure guidelines. Examples of prohibited expenditures include gifts, stipends for students, political contributions, course delivery, and supplanting of other general or categorical funds for similar program activities in place prior to availability of SEA funds. Additional information is available in the **updated** [SEA Program Expenditure Guidelines](#).

SEA Program funds are Proposition 98 funds and districts/colleges are strongly encouraged to spend funds within the same year they are allocated. Any unspent SEA funds should be spent by the end of the second year following the allocation year. Timely expenditure of SEA funds is essential to supporting student success initiatives and addressing local student needs. Please refer to [Effective Use of Prop 98 Spending Guidance Memo](#).

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

Reporting Requirements

Per [Education Code § 78222](#), colleges/districts are required to submit an annual report detailing how SEA Program funds were expended in the prior fiscal year and for what specific purposes; and an assessment of the progress in advancing the goals identified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a).

To streamline SEA reporting processes, beginning fall 2026, for the 2025–26 fiscal year, all required expenditure, activity, and progress reporting will occur through the [Vision-Aligned Reporting \(VAR\)](#) tool and the new **SEA Supplemental Report** (an Alchemer survey link embedded within VAR). As a result, **separate SEA reporting in NOVA is no longer required**. However, colleges will continue to submit their three-year Student Equity Plan through NOVA as usual.

As shared in the [Guided Pathways Grant Program Updates Memo](#), **separate stand-alone Guided Pathways fiscal reporting is also no longer required**. Instead, activities submitted through the SEA portion of VAR will be reviewed and coded by the Chancellor's Office to identify alignment with the four [Guided Pathways](#) pillars and to support SEA legislative reporting requirements related to Guided Pathways activities.

The following table provides an overview of the updates to SEA Program reporting requirements:

SEA Program Reporting Requirements Prior to fall 2026	SEA Program Reporting Requirements Beginning with fall 2026 (FY 2025–26)
SEA Program Report in VAR due by December 15 of each year	SEA Program Report in VAR and New SEA Supplemental Report in VAR due by December 31 of each year
SEA Annual Report in NOVA due by December 31 of each year	
SEA Term-End Expenditure Report in NOVA due by October 1 of each year	Eliminated
Student Equity Plan in NOVA is due every three years	Continue to be submitted through NOVA every three years (next one is due by Nov. 30, 2028)

Due Date

The SEA Program Report in VAR, along with the SEA Supplemental Report, are due by **Dec. 31, 2026**, for the 2025–26 fiscal year to remain compliant with [Education Code](#). The October 2026 Compendium of Allocations and Resources guide will be updated to reflect the Dec. 31, 2026 deadline.

How To Access the Required SEA Reports

2025–26 SEA Program Report in VAR

- College VAR Leads/Designees can access the 2025–26 SEA Program Report in VAR by end of September 2026 by logging into the VAR tool here: <https://var.cccco.edu>.
- Under the Programs Tab in VAR, select ‘Student Equity and Achievement Program’
- For more information on how to complete the SEA Report in VAR or how to navigate the VAR tool, please reach out to the VAR Team at VAR@CCCCO.edu.

2025–26 SEA Supplemental Report

- College primary SEA Contact or SEA Project Lead/Designee scans the QR Code below or the following link to complete the 2025–26 SEA Supplemental Report (Alchemer survey format): <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8810454/25-26SEA-VAR>



- Note: A link to the 2025–26 SEA Supplemental Report will also be included in the SEA Program report within VAR (exact location of the link will be shared in upcoming office hours).

Support

In the coming weeks, details on the following support resources will be shared through the SEA Listserv:

- **Office hours** for the 2025–26 SEA reporting requirements
- **Reporting template** and additional guidance for the new SEA Supplemental Report
- **Reminder: VAR Webinar** on the latest updates to VAR
 - To register for the webinar, visit the [Sept. 30, 2026, VAR Webinar 10–11 a.m. registration link](#)
- **Reminder: fall 2026 In–Person General VAR Convenings**
 - To register for the Sacramento Convening, visit the [Oct. 7, 2026, VAR Sacramento Convening registration link](#)
 - To register for the Ontario Convening, visit the [Oct. 21, 2026, VAR Ontario Convening registration link](#)

To be added to the SEA Listserv, complete the request on the [SEA Program Listserv Subscription](#) website.

Contacts

For support or questions on information provided in this memo, contact SEAProgramInfo@CCCCO.edu.

2026–27 SEA Program Allocation and Guidance

September 25, 2026

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor
Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor
Christopher Ferguson, Executive Vice Chancellor
John Hetts, Executive Vice Chancellor

Appendix 1: Student Equity and Achievement Program Allocation Table

The fiscal year 2026–27 Student Equity and Achievement Program allocation for each community college district is provided in the table below. Allocations are rounded to the nearest dollar.

District	Allocation
Allan Hancock Joint Community College District	\$4,437,500
Antelope Valley Community College District	\$6,910,767
Barstow Community College District	\$1,669,148
Butte-Glenn Community College District	\$4,926,061
Cabrillo Community College District	\$3,951,301
Cerritos Community College District	\$7,350,772
Chabot-Las Positas Community College District	\$6,840,675
Chaffey Community College District	\$7,362,382
Citrus Community College District	\$5,036,900
Coast Community College District	\$13,134,640
Compton Community College District	\$2,663,431
Contra Costa Community College District	\$13,003,418
Copper Mountain Community College District	\$1,019,220
Desert Community College District	\$4,221,393
El Camino Community College District	\$7,637,835
Feather River Community College District	\$988,676
Foothill-De Anza Community College District	\$11,788,969
Gavilan Community College District	\$2,242,695
Glendale Community College District	\$6,010,927
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District	\$8,406,354
Hartnell Community College District	\$4,132,148

District	Allocation
Imperial Community College District	\$3,282,558
Kern Community College District	\$12,009,507
Lake Tahoe Community College District	\$1,163,146
Lassen Community College District	\$1,317,174
Long Beach Community College District	\$7,521,775
Los Angeles Community College District	\$53,334,485
Los Rios Community College District	\$23,496,286
Marin Community College District	\$1,842,982
Mendocino-Lake Community College District	\$1,620,417
Merced Community College District	\$4,608,592
MiraCosta Community College District	\$4,759,572
Monterey Peninsula Community College District	\$2,721,071
Mt. San Antonio Community College District	\$15,120,735
Mt. San Jacinto Community College District	\$6,186,825
Napa Valley Community College District	\$2,534,372
North Orange County Community College District	\$14,745,128
Ohlone Community College District	\$2,871,567
Palo Verde Community College District	\$1,291,656
Palomar Community College District	\$6,666,050
Pasadena Area Community College District	\$8,798,981
Peralta Community College District	\$9,654,393
Rancho Santiago Community College District	\$15,356,225
Redwoods Community College District	\$1,921,397

District	Allocation
Rio Hondo Community College District	\$6,422,045
Riverside Community College District	\$12,988,899
San Bernardino Community College District	\$8,703,045
San Diego Community College District	\$19,515,672
San Francisco Community College District	\$10,325,989
San Joaquin Delta Community College District	\$6,319,267
San José–Evergreen Community College District	\$5,382,837
San Luis Obispo County Community College District	\$3,196,057
San Mateo County Community College District	\$7,487,117
Santa Barbara Community College District	\$4,929,630
Santa Clarita Community College District	\$6,174,038
Santa Monica Community College District	\$10,295,096
Sequoias Community College District	\$5,662,441
Shasta–Tehama–Trinity Joint Community College District	\$3,190,525
Sierra Joint Community College District	\$6,181,594
Siskiyou Joint Community College District	\$974,406
Solano County Community College District	\$3,425,023
Sonoma County Junior College District	\$6,795,757
South Orange County Community College District	\$11,644,084
Southwestern Community College District	\$6,819,359
State Center Community College District	\$15,738,886
Ventura County Community College District	\$11,061,522
Victor Valley Community College District	\$4,485,348

District	Allocation
West Hills Community College District	\$3,006,250
West Kern Community College District	\$1,894,954
West Valley-Mission Community College District	\$5,241,072
Yosemite Community College District	\$7,728,439
Yuba Community College District	\$4,227,492
Total	\$526,376,950