



2026 REPORT

Chaptered Legislation and Guidance

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

2026 CHAPTERED LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE REPORT

Prepared By

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Government Relations

INTRODUCTION

The California Community College Chancellor's Office is pleased to issue the 2026 Chaptered Legislation and Guidance Report. This document serves as a notice to districts of new laws which will take effect on January 1, 2027, unless otherwise indicated. It is incumbent upon local leadership to ensure compliance with all new laws and regulations. Implementation guidance has been added where relevant and available, and additional guidance may be available in the next few months. This year marked the second of the 2025-26 Legislative Session, which concluded on August 31, 2026. The Legislature sent 1,206 Assembly Bills (AB) and Senate Bills (SB) to Governor Newsom and **1,160 of those bills were signed into law, with the remainder being vetoed. A total of 103 bills directly impacting California Community Colleges or higher education were signed.**

To support implementation of newly enacted laws, this report provides a bill summary, an overview of relevant statutory changes, key considerations for colleges and districts, and high-level Chancellor's Office guidance. Additional guidance may be issued for select bills.

UNDERSTANDING NEW STATE LAWS

Disclaimer: This report was prepared by the Chancellor's Office Government Relations Division as an informational resource and does not constitute legal advice or a formal legal interpretation of state law. Colleges and districts should review the enacted statutory language and consult their legal counsel regarding the application, implementation, or compliance requirements of any legislation.

Understanding how a new law affects California Community Colleges requires reviewing the enacted statutory language in the context of existing law. The [California Legislative Information \(LegInfo\)](#) website is the primary source for enacted legislation. Districts should focus on what the law requires, who is responsible for implementation, when requirements take effect, and what actions may be necessary for compliance. While the Legislative Counsel's Digest and bill analyses can provide useful context, they do not replace a review of the enacted statutory language.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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STAY CONNECTED

We invite you to stay informed throughout the year on legislative matters. Email inquiries to govrelations@cccco.edu. You may also subscribe to the Government Relations listserv by sending an e-mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET and listing SUBSCRIBE ADVOCATES in the body of a BLANK, NON-HTML e-mail. **NO SUBJECT OR SIGNATURES.**

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS RESOURCES

You can find additional information about legislation and state and federal matters at the following resources:

- [Chancellor's Office Tracked Legislation](https://cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/policy-and-advocacy/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation) (cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/policy-and-advocacy/State-Relations/Tracked-Legislation)
- [Chaptered Legislation Reports](https://cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/policy-and-advocacy/Enacted-Bills) (cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/policy-and-advocacy/Enacted-Bills)
- [Government Relations Division Directory](https://cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/Governmental-Relations-Division-Directory) (cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Governmental-Relations/Governmental-Relations-Division-Directory)

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE RESOURCES

- [Vision 2030: A Roadmap for California Community Colleges](https://cccco.edu/About-Us/Vision-2030) (cccco.edu/About-Us/Vision-2030)
- [Joint Analysis of the Enacted 2026-27 State Budget](https://cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/2025-joint-analysis-enacted-budget.pdf) (cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/2025-joint-analysis-enacted-budget.pdf)
- [Chancellor's Office Compendium of Allocations & Resources](https://cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/compendium-of-allocations-and-resources.pdf) (cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/compendium-of-allocations-and-resources.pdf)
- [Chancellor's Office Published Reports](https://cccco.edu/About-Us/Reports) (cccco.edu/About-Us/Reports)
- [California Community Colleges 2027-2028 Shared Advocacy Request](https://cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/general/2026-27-shared-advocacy-request-bog-approved-a11y.pdf) (cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/general/2026-27-shared-advocacy-request-bog-approved-a11y.pdf)

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TIER 1 STATE LEGISLATION

Tier 1 bills directly impact the programs, services, and day-to-day operations of the California community colleges and/or Chancellor's Office. This report includes all Tier 1 bills, organized by theme.

ACADEMIC PATHWAYS, INSTRUCTION, AND TRANSFER



The bills in this section expand community college baccalaureate degree opportunities, strengthen transfer and articulation pathways, and improve student access and success across California's educational systems. These bills are most likely to impact Academic Affairs and Chief Instructional Officers.

AB 1552 (JACKSON): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66050 states the intent of the Legislature that public institutions of higher education provide an undergraduate educational experience that equips students with communication and problem-solving skills, critical thinking abilities, and the knowledge necessary for lifelong learning and informed citizenship, while preparing them to adapt to changing economic and social conditions and emphasizing quality teaching as a central priority.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to strengthen civic education by promoting civic engagement, civil discourse, and understanding of democratic institutions among California students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill states that it is the intent of the Legislature that public institutions of higher education in California, when delivering courses that build the knowledge of democracy necessary for good citizenship, give consideration to the importance of civic engagement, civic discord, and the key components of preserving democracy and its vital institutions, including, but not limited to, the free press, free access to libraries, compulsory education, and the federalist system.

This bill requires the Chancellors of the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges to, and requests the President of the University of California (UC) to, before the commencement of the 2028–29 academic year and in consultation with each of their respective academic senates, report to the Legislature regarding recommendations on how to facilitate greater knowledge of American democracy and meaningful civic engagement opportunities for students on campuses, and any necessary support from the Legislature to achieve those recommendations. This bill includes a sunset date of January 1, 2033.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

The Chancellor’s Office will consult with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and other appropriate system stakeholders in developing the recommendations required by this bill. In the meantime, community colleges should continue implementing civic education and general education requirements consistent with existing law and Title 5 regulations. This bill does not require colleges to establish new courses or modify existing curriculum.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1552) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1552).

AB 1636 (SOLACHE): CERRITOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT: DATA SHARING.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 76000 requires the governing boards of community college districts to admit any California resident possessing a high school diploma or the equivalent, and authorizes the admission of nonresidents, apprentices, and other persons over 18 years of age who, in the judgment of the board, are capable of profiting from the instruction offered.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to create a seamless pipeline for high school students to enroll into community college upon graduation by temporarily authorizing a pilot program for the Cerritos College district to enter into a consent data sharing agreement with K-12 partners to establish a precollege pipeline.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill authorizes the Chancellor’s Office to develop a pilot program for the Cerritos College district to enter into a consent data sharing agreement with K-12 partner to establish a precollege pipeline, as specified.

Specifically, this bill:

- Requires the district, in consultation with the Chancellor's Office, to develop a recommended prototype describing how personally identifiable student information (PII) would be collected and transmitted to the Chancellor's Office for the limited purpose of creating community college student records for course enrollment. The prototype must be developed on or before April 1, 2027, as specified. The prototype shall include the following:
 - Describe how student information will be collected, transmitted, and stored in compliance with all applicable state and federal privacy laws.
 - Identify the minimum amount of student information necessary to create a community college student record
 - Include recommendations for protecting student data and adhering to data privacy standards
 - Identify existing system capabilities that may be utilized as part of the process.
- As part of the prototype this bill requires the Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop a proposed form of process for obtaining informed consent from participating student, and when required by law, their parent or guardian. The consent process must explain:
 - The purpose and pilot nature of the program.
 - How the process differs from CCCApply and CCCStart.
 - How student information will be acquired, transmitted, stored, and used.
- Requires the Chancellor's Office to review and approve recommended prototype on or before September 1, 2027. The review must determine whether the proposal complies with applicable privacy, data security, data-minimization, and technical transmission requirements. If deficiencies are identified, Cerritos CCD may submit a revised prototype for approval.
- Upon prototype approval, authorizes the governing board of CCCD to enter into a data-sharing agreements with partnering local education agencies (LEAs), including school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools that participate with the district in California College Promise or College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) programs and are located within the district's service area.
- Requires participating LEAs to obtain express written consent from either the student, if 18 years of age or older, or the student's parent or guardian before sharing personally identifiable student information with CCCD and the Chancellor's Office.

- Requires CCCD to compile and transmit student information received through approved agreements to the Chancellor’s Office using the approved prototype process. The information may only be used for the creation of a community college student record for enrollment purposes.
- Requires the Chancellor’s Office to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot in supporting seamless student transition from participating K-12 partners into community college enrollment, on or before January 1, 2031.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Because the provisions of this bill only apply to Cerritos Community College District, no additional actions from districts are required.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1636) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1636).

AB 1728 (ALANIS): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM: CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PUBLIC SAFETY COURSES.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66725.5 requires, by July 1, 2027, the California Community Colleges to adopt a Common Course Numbering (CCN) system and requires each community college campus, by July 1, 2027, to incorporate CCNs from the adopted system into its course catalog.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish a common course alignment system for public safety courses that is distinct from, but complementary to, the CCN for general education and transfer courses required under existing law.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires the California Community Colleges, by December 31, 2027, to develop and submit to the Legislature an implementation and funding plan to establish a common course numbering and alignment system for career technical education public safety courses that is focused on regional, agency-compliant, and professional standards. The plan shall include phased implementation for the following courses:

- Firefighting courses that align with the curriculum, standards, and certification requirements established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal’s California State Fire Training.
- Law enforcement education courses that align with the curriculum, standards, and certification requirements established by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.
- Courses that fulfill the course requirements established for the modern policing degree program.

This bill requires the system to be complementary to the CCN system adopted under existing law and clarifies that implementation is contingent upon availability of funding as determined by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

The Chancellor's Office will lead the development of the implementation and funding plan in consultation with faculty, accreditation agencies, CTE deans, and other relevant public safety education stakeholders. The Chancellor's Office will also work with relevant state agencies and discipline experts to identify the applicable curriculum, professional standards, and certification requirements. Colleges should monitor additional implementation guidance as the statewide plan is developed and funding is identified. Colleges should expect additional information about next steps by Fall 2026.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1728) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1728).

AB 1769 (RAMOS): STUDENT TRANSFER: TRIBAL COLLEGES.

Existing Law:

The Donahoe Higher Education Act establishes the California Community Colleges, the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC) as the three segments of public postsecondary education in the state of California. This act also requires each of the three segments of public postsecondary education to maintain a healthy and expanded student transfer system.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to facilitate streamlined articulation and transfer pathways for students attending Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to public postsecondary educational institutions.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- Requires the CSU Board of Trustees, UC Board of Regents, and the governing boards of community college districts that offer a baccalaureate degree to develop and implement transfer agreement and articulation programs, as specified, to support and enhance the transfer of students attending TCUs.
 - In developing a transfer agreement or articulation program, the CSU and the California Community Colleges shall, and the UC is requested to, work collaboratively with participating TCUs to identify opportunities to align coursework with the California General Education Transfer Curriculum, where appropriate.
- Requires the CSU Board of Trustees, UC Board of Regents, and the governing boards of community college districts that offer a baccalaureate degree to develop and

implement concurrent enrollment programs for TCU students, to the extent capacity is available.

- Requires the CSU and California Community Colleges, and requests the UC, with consultation, to assess and build upon tools, systems, or curricula designed to facilitate student transfer—such as C-ID, Common Course Numbering (CCN), IMPAC, Cal-GETC, and ASSIST—to determine if they can incorporate TCUs.
- Does not require the UC, CSU, or California Community Colleges to articulate coursework completed at a TCU that is not institutionally accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

College districts that offer baccalaureate degree programs will need to develop articulation agreements, transfer programs, and concurrent enrollment pathways to support TCU transfer. Colleges should consult with faculty that oversee BDPs and transfer professionals to support the implementation of this bill.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1769) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1769).

AB 1871 (FONG): PUPIL INSTRUCTION: DUAL ENROLLMENT: COLLEGE AND CAREER ACCESS PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIPS.

Existing Law:

Education Code 76004 establishes the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program and authorizes the governing board of a community college district to enter into a CCAP partnership with the governing board of a school district or county office of education for the purpose of offering or expanding dual enrollment opportunities for pupils who may not already be college bound or who are underrepresented in higher education.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to remove administrative barriers and provide more equitable access to dual enrollment opportunities for all high school students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill changes the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment program by doing the following:

- Removing the requirement that participating students obtain a principal recommendation.
- Requiring CCAP agreements to permit students to complete a single community college application for the duration of their participation.

- Eliminating the existing limit of 4 college courses per term while retaining the 15-unit cap.
- Revising state reporting requirements to include total number of high school pupils who successfully completed 12 or more units of college coursework by graduation, completed a certificate, or completed the courses required for an associate degree or an associate degree for transfer rather than the total number of community college courses by course category, type, and school site.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Community college districts should review and update existing CCAP partnership agreements, local procedures, and student enrollment processes to ensure compliance with the changes to the program. The Chancellor’s Office will provide additional technical assistance and reporting guidance, as needed. This bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1871) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1871).

AB 2660 (ALVAREZ): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: INTERSEGMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS: STEM EDUCATION.

Existing Law:

The Donahoe Higher Education Act sets forth the missions and functions of California’s public segments of higher education and their respective institutions of higher education.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to codify the Cal-Bridge Program and ENLACE Program as intersegmental science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) pathway initiatives to increase the number and diversity of students pursuing STEM PhDs and entering California’s STEM workforce.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- Establishes the Cal-Bridge Program as an intersegmental partnership of the California State University (CSU), the University of California (UC), and the California Community Colleges (CCC).
 - The Cal-Bridge Program shall be independent of the CCC, CSU, and UC, but shall be administratively housed at either a CSU or UC campus.
 - This program will prepare students to apply to STEM PhD programs, provide summer research experiences, support students to become PhD scholars, offer postdoctoral opportunities, and maintain an ongoing support network.
 - CCC, CSU, and UC students majoring in STEM disciplines shall be recruited into the Cal-Bridge Program.

- Establishes five programs housed under the Cal-Bridge umbrella: the Cal-Bridge Undergraduate Program, Cal-Bridge Summer Program, Cal-Bridge Doctoral Program, Cal-Bridge Postdoctoral Program, and Cal-Bridge First Academic Scholar Training (FAST) Program.
- Establishes the ENLACE Program as an intersegmental partnership that complements the Cal-Bridge Program by creating pathways for students from high school and college in the full spectrum of STEM disciplines.
 - The ENLACE High School and Undergraduate Program shall provide support to students from high school through undergraduate studies at CCC, CSU, and UC campuses majoring in all STEM disciplines, such as mentorship, academic support, research opportunities, and guidance on pathways to advanced STEM degrees and careers.
- On or before January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the Cal-Bridge Program shall submit a programmatic progress report to the Office of the President of the University of California that includes data on implementation and funding allocations.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

The 2026 State Budget appropriated \$1.2 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for the Cal-Bridge FAST Program, which will support the overall Cal-Bridge Program. Community colleges should work with CSU and UC partners to conduct targeted recruitment and advising to eligible STEM students, including developing one-week informational workshops, conducting recruitment activities, and sharing information about the Cal-Bridge Undergraduate Program application process and available research opportunities. This outreach will make students aware of the available academic and research opportunities to help them further their STEM educational and career goals and continue into other Cal-Bridge programs.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2660) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2660).

AB 2694 (ALVAREZ)/SB 960 (CABALDON): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: COMMUNITY COLLEGES: STATEWIDE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 78040 through 78043 establish the California Community College Baccalaureate Degree Program for the purpose of offering workforce-oriented baccalaureate degrees at community colleges.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of these bills is to revise the approval process for community college baccalaureate degrees to ensure they remain responsive to regional workforce needs.

Requirements Under New Law:

These bills expand community college baccalaureate degrees by amending the limitations, workforce review process, and intersegmental objection procedures for proposed baccalaureate degree programs, as specified.

These bills establish a five-tier framework for determining a community college district's eligibility to offer baccalaureate degree programs based on the district's rate of students who earn an award or transfer within three years of entering a cohort. These bills require the Chancellor's Office to calculate and annually publish the mean rate and standard deviation for applicable cohort periods and establishes the following maximum number of baccalaureate degree programs by tier:

- A Tier 1 district may offer up to 10 baccalaureate degree programs, with additional programs authorized for certain districts with multiple campuses or 75,000 or more full-time equivalent students.
- A Tier 2 district may offer up to eight baccalaureate degree programs, with additional programs authorized for certain districts with multiple campuses or 75,000 or more full-time equivalent students.
- A Tier 3 district may offer up to six baccalaureate degree programs.
- A Tier 4 district may offer up to four baccalaureate degree programs.
- A Tier 5 district may offer up to two baccalaureate degree programs.

These bills establish additional limitations for baccalaureate degree programs approved on or after January 1, 2028, including a statewide limit of 10 baccalaureate degree programs offered by a district at any one time. These bills specify that a district that falls to a lower eligibility tier may continue operating previously approved programs but may not receive approval for additional programs that would exceed the maximum authorized for its current tier. These bills also specify that a baccalaureate degree program offered at multiple colleges within a district counts as one program for purposes of the applicable limit and that programs approved before January 1, 2028, do not count toward the tier-based or 10-program limits.

These bills authorize the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to place a Tier 3, Tier 4, or Tier 5 district in the next highest tier if the district's annual rate of students who earn an award or transfer within three years increases by two percentage points in each of the three most recent cohort years.

These bills modify the provisions governing duplication of baccalaureate degree programs offered by the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC). These bills permit a community college district to offer a substantially similar program offered by a CSU campus whose local service area includes or overlaps with the district if the CSU campus has a transfer acceptance rate of less than 75% for three consecutive years, as specified. These bills require the CSU Chancellor to make applicable transfer acceptance data publicly available beginning January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter.

These bills prohibit a community college district from offering a baccalaureate degree program through a fully online instructional modality if the CSU or UC offers a substantially similar baccalaureate degree program through a fully online instructional modality.

These bills establish a process through which the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development (LWDA) may determine whether a proposed baccalaureate degree program addresses an unmet current or projected future workforce need and whether the capacity of substantially similar programs is sufficient to meet regional workforce needs. These bills require the Secretary to issue a determination within 90 days of receiving a completed request and provides that a determination is valid for four years.

These bills require a community college district requesting a workforce determination to provide specified information regarding the proposed program, regional workforce data, existing and planned capacity of similar programs, and other evidence of unmet workforce need. These bills also require the district to provide the request to the California Community Colleges, CSU, UC, and Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCCU), and authorizes potentially impacted campuses to submit relevant information to the LWDA Secretary.

These bills provide that a workforce determination finding an unmet workforce need and insufficient capacity of substantially similar programs exempts the proposed program from the written objection process applicable to the CSU but does not exempt the program from the UC objection process.

These bills modify the application requirements for proposed baccalaureate degree programs by requiring documentation of the existing and planned capacity of similar programs in the region and requiring districts to document consultation with the CSU and UC regarding collaborative approaches to meeting regional workforce needs, including potential structured partnerships such as guaranteed transfer agreements, 2+2 articulation agreements, high school dual enrollment pathways, credit for prior learning, and shared use of facilities. Further, these bills limit a community college district to no more than three applications during an academic year.

These bills modify the review process for objections submitted by the CSU or UC. These bills extend the period for submitting written objections to 45 working days or 60 working days if more than 45 applications are received. These bills establish a process for referring a CSU objection to the LWDA Secretary for a determination regarding unmet workforce need and the capacity of substantially similar programs. These bills provide that a proposed program may proceed following a CSU objection if the LWDA Secretary determines that the program addresses an unmet workforce need and that existing program capacity is insufficient. If the LWDA Secretary determines that the proposed program does not address an unmet workforce need, the district is prohibited from submitting a similar baccalaureate degree program application for five years.

These bills establish a separate process for objections submitted by the UC that requires the Chancellor's Office to convene with the applicant and the UC and establish a written agreement addressing the elements of the objection before the program is approved.

These bills require the Chancellor's Office to annually report to the Legislature on baccalaureate degree programs approved, including information regarding collaborative programs, objections and workforce determinations, student completion and employment outcomes disaggregated by specified student characteristics, and funding sources supporting each baccalaureate degree program.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Additional guidance from the Chancellor's Office is forthcoming.

The text of AB 2694 is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2694) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2694).

The text of SB 960 is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB960) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB960).

AFFORDABILITY, FINANCIAL AID, AND TUITION AND FEES



The following bills are intended to expand access to financial aid, reduce the total cost of attendance, and strengthen student supports for historically underrepresented populations. These bills are most likely to impact Financial Aid Offices and Admissions and Records, and we encourage cross-departmental coordination that contributes to successful implementation.

AB 1920 (M. GONZÁLEZ): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PROMISE: FEE WAIVER ELIGIBILITY.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 76396 through 76396.4 establish the California College Promise under the administration of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and authorizes colleges to use funding to waive enrollment fees for California students who are first-time or returning and enrolled full-time, defined as at least 12 semester units or equivalent.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to clarify eligibility rules under the California College Promise to ensure that first-time, full-time community college students are not penalized for earning certificates while progressing toward a degree.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill clarifies that, for purposes of eligibility under the California College Promise, a certificate awarded to a student by a postsecondary educational institution as part of a course sequence leading to an associate degree does not make the student ineligible for a fee waiver.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should ensure that local enrollment, financial aid, and student information system processes appropriately distinguish between certificates that represent completion of a pathway leading to an associate degree and credentials that may otherwise affect California College Promise eligibility. This bill takes effect on January 1, 2027.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1920) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1920).

AB 2251 (C. RODRIGUEZ): STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: CAL GRANT PROGRAM: COST OF ATTENDANCE.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66027.82 requires the California Community Colleges and California State University, and requests the University of California, to develop a policy for estimating and adjusting cost of attendance information for student parents.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to allow students to update their financial aid information when their documented financial circumstances do not reflect their current costs.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires, notwithstanding existing law, no later than the start of the 2027-28 academic year, and as a condition of Cal Grant eligibility, institutions to develop and implement a cost of attendance policy and adjustment process to estimate and adjust cost of attendance information in a manner that is consistent with federal law. The institution shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- Prominently display, by means that may include a link to a separate internet website, the data sources and assumptions used to calculate each component of the institution's cost of attendance budget on the institution's internet website page that contains information about their cost of attendance budget.
- Implement a cost of attendance adjustment process that allows for adjustments to any student expense category included in the institution's cost of attendance budget, including, but not limited to, housing, food, transportation, books and supplies, miscellaneous personal expenses, and dependent care.

- Consider cost of attendance adjustments, consistent with specified circumstances, including the cost of uninsured medical, dental, or optical expenses and the cost of dependent care expenses for students with dependent children.
- Accept electronic or hard copy cost of attendance adjustment requests.
- Allow a student to submit a cost of attendance adjustment request during enrollment. The institution shall not impose cost of attendance adjustment request deadlines that are earlier than three weeks before the end of each term. The institution shall not limit the total number of requests that may be submitted by a student throughout the duration of the student's enrollment.
- Prominently display, using student-friendly language, information about the institution's cost of attendance adjustment process, including how to submit a request, the timeline for review and notification of the decision, and contact information for staff who can help the student complete an adjustment request on the institution's internet website page that contains information about their cost of attendance budget, by means that may include a link to a separate internet website.
- If describing the potential outcomes of an approved cost of attendance adjustment request, or an approved second review request, in publicly available materials or communications, including internet websites, publications, and forms, include a statement that an approved request for a cost of attendance adjustment may result in various forms of additional financial aid, including, but not limited to, grant aid or loans.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should review and update their existing cost of attendance policies, financial aid procedures, and student-facing materials to ensure compliance with the new requirements before the start of the 2027–28 academic year. Colleges should also clearly document and prominently display the data sources and assumptions used to establish each component of their cost of attendance budgets, including information on the process for requesting adjustments.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2251) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2251).

AB 2422 (CALOZA): STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: DELAYED FINANCIAL AID AWARDS: EXTENSIONS.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 69513.2 authorizes the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to extend by 30 calendar days the application deadline for any financial aid program administered by CSAC if it determines that a delay in the opening of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has occurred.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to provide greater stability and predictability for students who experience delays in receiving financial aid.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires, commencing with the 2027–28 academic year, the California State University (CSU), each community college district, and private postsecondary educational institutions and independent institutions of higher education that receive state financial assistance to, and requests the University of California (UC) to, for a student whose financial aid award is delayed due to factors that are outside of the student’s control, do all of the following:

- Extend enrollment deadlines that may result in a student receiving a hold or being dropped from a class through the end of the academic term in which the delay occurs or until the funds are received. Once the funds are received, the extension of enrollment deadlines ceases.
- Extend financial deadlines for all required payments related to enrollment fees and costs through the end of the academic term in which the delay occurs if deemed necessary by the institution. The deadline extension applies only to the amount of financial aid award that has been delayed.
- Refrain from imposing punitive actions.

This bill authorizes the UC, CSU, each community college district, and private postsecondary educational institutions and independent institutions of higher education that receive state financial assistance to do either or both of the following:

- Require documentation for students to verify delays in funding from private scholarships, grants, and loans.
- If a financial aid award is delayed due to factors that are outside of the student’s control beyond the term in which the delay occurred, require documentation for the student to renew enrollment and the financial aid award while the delay continues.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Colleges should ensure that current policies on financial aid delays are aligned with this new law.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2422) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2422).

AB 2766 (AHRENS): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: STUDENT HOUSING: FOSTER YOUTH AND HOMELESS YOUTH.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66025.9 requires California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), and campuses of the California Community Colleges (CCC) to provide priority enrollment for foster youth and homeless youth, defined to include youth younger than 25 years of age at the commencement of the academic year. Education Code Section 76010 requests community college campuses to give priority housing to foster and homeless youth and provide year-round housing at no extra cost during breaks.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand priority enrollment eligibility for NextUp foster youth and provide priority access to student housing for current and former foster and/or homeless youth.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- Requires the CSU, CCCs, and requests the UC, to provide priority enrollment to current and former foster and/or homeless youth, including students enrolled in the NextUp program who are over the age of 25.
- Requires CSU, California community colleges that maintains student housing facilities, and requests UC, to do the following:
 - Provide priority student housing to current and former homeless and/or foster youth.
 - Provide year-round housing at no extra cost during breaks.
 - Include questions in a student housing application designed to identify students who may be eligible for priority housing, such as current and former foster and/or homeless youth.
 - Waive housing fees until a student receives their financial aid disbursement, as long as the student has submitted a FAFSA or Dream Act application
 - Post information describing priority housing benefits and the eligibility criteria on their student housing internet website.
- Requests the CSU, California community colleges that maintains student housing facilities, and UC to develop a plan to ensure that current and former homeless youth and current and former foster youth can access housing resources as needed during and between academic terms, including during academic and campus breaks, regardless of whether the campus maintains student housing facilities.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

While most colleges already provide priority student housing for foster and homeless students, all colleges with student housing should review and update their housing application, priority eligibility, and payment procedures to implement the new requirements for eligible current and former foster and/or homeless youth. These colleges should also post information on their websites describing priority housing benefits and eligibility criteria and should update relevant housing, financial aid, and student support materials to ensure students are aware of these opportunities.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2766) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2766).

AB 2768 (AHRENS): STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: WAIVER OR DEFERMENT OF FEES AND COSTS: FOSTER YOUTH.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66025.9 requires California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), and campuses of the California Community Colleges (CCC) to provide priority enrollment for foster youth and homeless youth, defined to include youth younger than 25 years of age at the commencement of the academic year. Education Code Section 76010 requests community college campuses to give priority housing to foster and homeless youth and provide year-round housing at no extra cost during breaks.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to address upfront financial barriers for current and former foster youth by allowing eligible students to defer or waive specified enrollment-related fees and costs until they receive their initial financial aid disbursement.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires, commencing with the 2027–28 academic year, CSU, each community college district, and private postsecondary educational institutions and independent institutions of higher education that receive state financial assistance to, and requests the UC to, for a student who has submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or California Dream Act Application and is a foster youth or former foster youth, to do either of the following upon the student's initial enrollment at the postsecondary educational institution:

- Waive the unpaid portion of enrollment fees and costs.
- Defer the unpaid portion of enrollment fees and costs until the student has received an initial disbursement of the student's financial aid award.

This bill specifies that enrollment fees and costs include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

- Registration fees, including a statement of intent to register.

- Mandatory campus fees.
- Campus housing and meals, including any required deposits.
- Health insurance.
- Books, supplies, materials, and equipment that may be required for enrolled courses, except as provided.
- Any associated costs of a summer course or program required to be taken for the student's chosen major.

This bill clarifies that if a postsecondary educational institution is unable to waive or defer these costs, the institution shall provide the student with clear information regarding available campus resources, institutional programs, or community-based assistance to help the student cover those costs. It also encourages districts to use existing funding sources to implement this section, including, but not limited to, funding received pursuant to the NextUp program and Student Equity and Achievement Program.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should identify which enrollment-related fees and costs can be waived or deferred under the new requirements and establish processes for applying the appropriate treatment to a student's account. Colleges should also coordinate across financial aid, admissions and records, and NextUp programs to ensure eligible students are not required to pay covered costs before receiving their initial financial aid disbursement.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2768) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2768).

SB 968 (BECKER): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 76302 authorizes San Mateo Community College District (SMCCD) to adopt a policy to use local unrestricted general funds to provide fee waivers for students who have the greatest financial need, are living within the boundary of the district, and do not qualify for any other fee waivers provided under state law.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to provide SMCCD with permanent flexibility to offer additional fee waivers to eligible students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill removes a sunset provision to allow SMCCD to indefinitely use local unrestricted general funds to provide fee waivers and financial assistance towards the total cost of

attendance for students with the greatest financial need and who do not qualify for other fee waivers offered by the California Community College system. This bill also makes technical and conforming changes, including the removal of a one-time report by SMCCD.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Because this bill only applies to SMCCD, no additional actions from colleges are required.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB968) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB968).

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (SCR) 195 (REYES): STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 69430 et. al. establishes the Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards, the Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards, the California Community College Expanded Entitlement Awards, the California Community College Transfer Entitlement Awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards, the Cal Grant C Awards, and the Cal Grant T Awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission.

Requirements Under New Law:

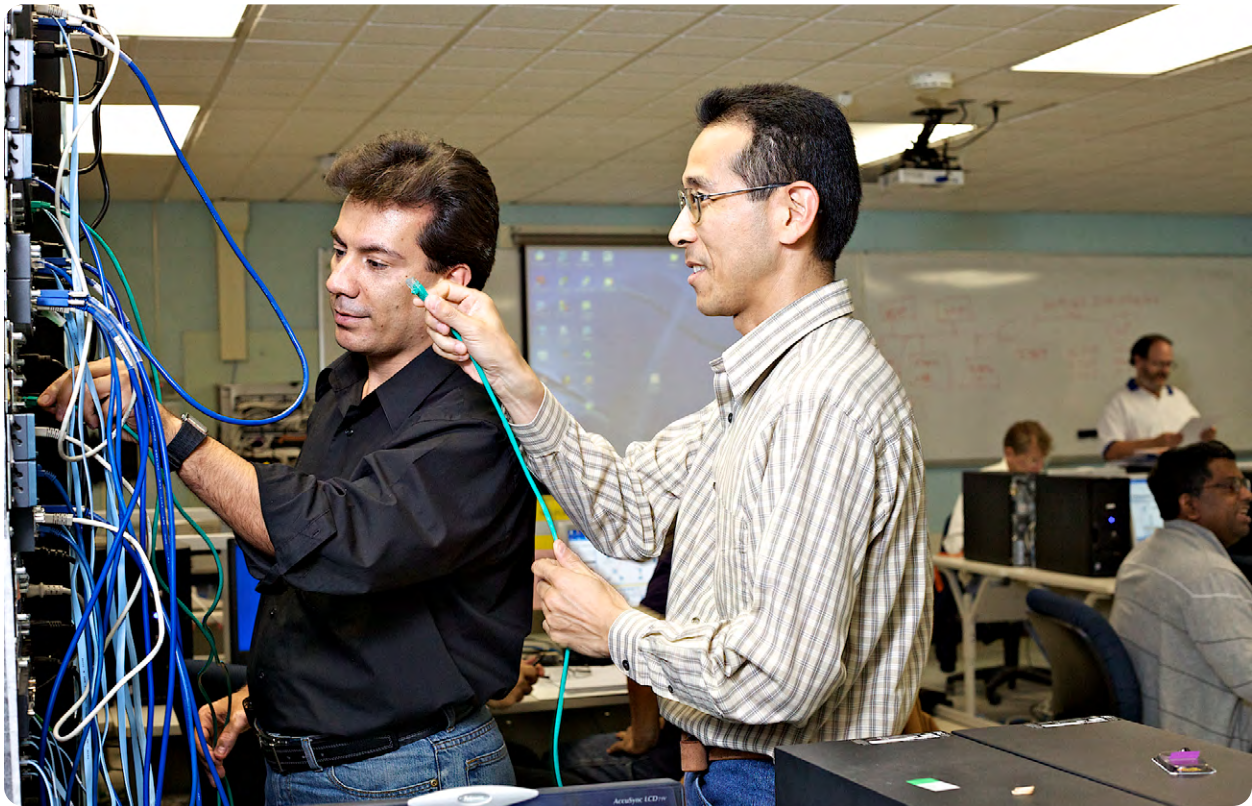
This resolution recognizes the month of October each year as Student Financial Aid Awareness Month and declares that it is important to increase student participation in financial aid programs to ensure that students receive clear, timely, and accessible information about application requirements, deadlines, and available resources.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

While this resolution does not make any changes to existing law, districts can incorporate this resolution as part of their messaging and outreach efforts regarding financial aid opportunities.

The text of this measure is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SCR195) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SCR195).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DATA SHARING, AND TECHNOLOGY



The bills in this section establish governance, standards, and workforce strategies for the use of artificial intelligence across public higher education. These bills are most likely to impact Information Technology, Academic Affairs, and Institutional Research, and may require new compliance, training, and reporting processes at the campus level.

AB 2392 (FONG): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS: PROCUREMENT STANDARDS: TRAINING.

Existing Law:

Government Code Section 11549.64 defines “artificial intelligence” or “AI” to mean an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments and defines “generative artificial intelligence” or “GenAI” to mean an AI system that can generate derived synthetic content, including text, images, video, and audio that emulates the structure and characteristics of the system’s training data.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish intersegmental standards and training for the procurement and usage of generative artificial intelligence tools.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill requires the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the CSU, and requests the UC, to:

- Jointly convene and participate in an intersegmental working group to develop procurement standards and training for systemwide generative AI (GenAI) tools.
- On or before January 1, 2028, present recommendations to system leaders on a statewide training, and subsequently provide the developed training to students, faculty, and staff.
- Review the developed training annually and update it as necessary.
- Maintain records of completed trainings.
- Submit interim legislative reporting, if systemwide GenAI tools are procured, until the GenAI procurement standards are adopted.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

The first step required under AB 2392 is for public postsecondary institutions to convene a workgroup to develop procurement standards and to issue recommendations on applicable training. Because these recommendations are not due to system leaders until January 1, 2028, it is too soon to provide guidance steps for colleges. We recommend that colleges remain attentive to relevant announcements about the workgroup over the coming months.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2392) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2392).

AB 2504 (BAUER-KAHAN): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: PILOT PROGRAM.

Existing Law:

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in the state. The 2026 State Budget provides \$15 million one-time funding from the Proposition 98 General Fund to establish the Future of Creative Industries Pilot Program.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish and codify the Future of Creative Industries Pilot Program, which will support workers in California's creative and entertainment industries who have been, or are at risk of being, displaced by generative artificial intelligence.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- Establishes the Future of Creative Industries Pilot Program, to be developed by the Chancellor's Office and in partnership with labor unions and industry representatives.
- Requires the Chancellor's Office to establish eligibility criteria for prospective community colleges to participate in the pilot program by June 30, 2027.
- Limits the pilot program to 10 community colleges statewide.
- Requires pilot program implementation for selected colleges on or before July 1, 2028.
- Requires the Chancellor's Office to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program at participating community colleges.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Our Workforce and Economic Development Division (WEDD) is currently developing program logistics and application materials pursuant to legislation requirements. Colleges can expect guidance in Fall 2026. Colleges interested in participating in the pilot program should review the eligibility criteria established by the Chancellor's Office and identify existing or proposed programs that can provide reskilling and upskilling opportunities aligned with the needs of California's creative and entertainment workforce.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2504) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2504).

SB 1159 (CABALDON): ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNANCE.

Existing Law:

Existing laws, including the California Public Records Act, the Legislative Open Records Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, and the Ralph M. Brown Act, allow the public to access and comment at meetings of government bodies. Among those acts, the California Public Records Act defines "person" to include any natural person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, firm, or association. Existing law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), defines "person" to include any person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business, trust, corporation, limited liability company, company, district, county, city and county, city, town, and, among other things, the state. Existing law, the California Coastal Act of 1976, establishes the California Coastal Commission and prescribes procedures for the preparation, approval, and certification of local coastal programs that regulate development in the coastal zone, as defined, in jurisdictions that have a certified local coastal program.

Bill Purpose:

This bill clarifies that AI systems, autonomous agents, robots, and other non-human entities are not “persons” entitled to engage with governmental processes under California’s transparency and comment laws. It also allows government agencies to use a tool to determine if artificial intelligence is present.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- Specifies that, for purposes of the California Public Records Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Legislative Open Records Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, the California Coastal Act of 1976, and CEQA, “person,” “interested person,” “participant,” “member of the public,” as applicable, and any other similar terms under each act referring to those who may engage with governmental agencies, do not include artificial intelligence, as defined, systems, autonomous agents, or robots, whether physical or digital.
- Authorizes governmental agencies to use a disclosure verification tool to determine if artificial intelligence is present.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Community college district governing boards, student body associations, and other groups who abide by the Brown Act or other relevant acts, should review their public comment, participation, and engagement practices to ensure compliance with this law’s clarification that artificial intelligence systems, autonomous agents, and robots are not members of the public or participants for purposes of those acts.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1159) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1159).

APPORTIONMENTS AND ATTENDANCE ACCOUNTING



The following bills include policies that impact state apportionments, including attendance accounting, residency classification, and academic calendars. These bills are most likely to impact Admissions and Records, Fiscal Services, and course scheduling.

AB 395 (GABRIEL): HOLIDAYS.

Existing Law:

Existing law designates specific days as holidays in California. Existing law designates holidays on which public schools are required to close, and community college districts are allowed to close.

Bill Purpose:

This bill encourages educational institutions and state agencies to consider religious holidays when scheduling academic calendars or institutional events.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- Commencing with the 2027-28 academic year, requests community college governing boards to make good faith, reasonable efforts when developing academic

calendars to avoid calendaring an institutional event (like orientation, final exam, or commencement) on a religious—such as Muslim, Jewish, or Hindu—holiday.

- Requires community college governing boards to consult with relevant student and faculty organizations when determining what dates to avoid.
- Requires state agencies, such as the Chancellor’s Office, to make good faith, reasonable efforts to avoid conducting public meetings, conferences, or other gatherings (such as Board of Governors and Consultation Council meetings) on a religious—such as Muslim, Jewish, or Hindu—holiday.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Community college district governing boards, in concert with CIOs, should make reasonable efforts to avoid scheduling meetings and institutional events on religious (such as Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu) holidays. When determining what dates to avoid, governing boards should consult with relevant student and faculty organizations, as required by the bill.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB395) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB395).

AB 1555 (HADWICK): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: EXEMPTION FROM NONRESIDENT TUITION FEE: COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 76140 authorizes any community college district that has fewer than 1,500 FTES and whose boundary is within 10 miles of another state that either has a reciprocity agreement with California governing student attendance and fees, or participates in the Western Undergraduate Exchange, to exempt students from that state, or may exempt students from those states that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange, from nonresident tuition.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to provide the College of the Siskiyous with additional flexibility to enroll eligible students from specified Oregon counties by reducing nonresident tuition costs.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill authorizes students who attend College of the Siskiyous and who have residence in Jackson, Josephine and Klamath counties in Oregon to become exempt from the payment of a nonresident tuition fee.

This bill clarifies that a person shall have residence if the person has lived in the county for more than one year immediately before seeking the fee exemption. This bill requires the governing board of the Siskiyou Joint Community College District to adopt rules and regulations for determining a student’s residence classification and for establishing procedures for an appeal and review of the residence classification. This bill specifies that no

more than 200 students shall be exempted from payment of a nonresident tuition fee in any academic year and authorizes these students to generate state apportionment.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Consistent with other nonresident tuition exemptions, the College of the Siskiyous should establish procedures to identify and verify eligible students residing in Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath counties and ensure that the nonresident tuition exemption is applied consistently.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1555) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1555).

AB 2017 (HANEY): STATE HOLIDAYS: EID.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 79020 requires community colleges to close on certain holidays, including February 12, known as “Lincoln Day,” and the third Monday in February, known as “Washington Day,” and authorizes several optional holidays, including Genocide Remembrance Day, Native American Day, and Lunar New Year.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to allow community colleges to observe Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, two holidays celebrated by Muslims.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill authorizes, but does not require, a community college district, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with applicable labor organizations, to close the first day of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as “Eid al-Fitr,” and the 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as “Eid al-Adha.”

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

This bill requires local district agreement. Each district must make the determination of whether to observe Eid al-Fitr and/or Eid al-Adha and should make any adjustments to collective bargaining agreements with labor organizations, as necessary. Colleges are expected to continue reporting their academic calendars as part of their annual MIS data submissions.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2017) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2017).

AB 2436 (FONG): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: TUITION AND FEES: TEAM USA STUDENT ATHLETES.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 68083 entitles any Team USA student athlete who trains in the state in an elite level program approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) to resident classification.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to extend indefinitely the current exemption allowing Team USA student athletes training in California in an elite level program approved by the USOPC to receive resident classification for tuition and fee purposes.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill repeals a provision, which would have become operative July 1, 2032, that states that any amateur student athlete in training at the United States Olympic Training Center in the City of Chula Vista is entitled to resident classification for tuition purposes.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should update their nonresident tuition exemption policies accordingly.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2436) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2436).

AB 2794 (HIGHER EDUCATION): POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: NONRESIDENT TUITION: EXEMPTION: FEDERAL GI BILL.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 76140 establishes the nonresident tuition fee, authorizes districts to exempt certain nonresident students from the nonresident tuition fee, and allows districts to claim state apportionment under specified circumstances.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to make non-controversial, technical, and conforming changes to several provisions of the Education Code to align with current practice.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill adds the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve program to the list of federal education benefits that qualifies for an exemption from paying nonresident tuition and specifies that this program and other federal programs as specified, as they read on January 5, 2026, are also authorized for this exemption.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should update their nonresident tuition exemption policies accordingly.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2794) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2794).

SB 1394 (GONZALEZ): STATE HOLIDAYS: CESAR CHAVEZ DAY: FARMWORKERS DAY.

Existing Law:

Existing law designates holidays on which community colleges and public schools are authorized to close pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the governing board and represented employees, including Cesar Chavez Day on March 31. Existing law entitles state employees, with specified exceptions, and authorizes certain community college and public school employees, to be given time off with pay for certain holidays, as specified. Existing law redesignates March 31 as Farmworkers Day instead of Cesar Chavez Day, and requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 31 as Farmworkers Day.

Bill Purpose:

This bill replaces Cesar Chavez Day with Farmworkers Day as an optional holiday to be observed on April 10.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- Removes the designation of March 31 as Cesar Chavez Day as a holiday that community colleges and public schools are authorized to close, and instead authorizes community colleges and public schools to close on April 10, known as Farmworkers Day.
- Revises the provisions related to state employees, certain community college employees, and public school employees to instead apply to Farmworkers Day.
- Requires the Governor to instead proclaim April 10 as Farmworkers Day.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges that formerly observed Cesar Chavez Day, in consultation with CIOs and bargaining units, will need to update their academic calendars and contracts to reflect the elimination of Cesar Chavez Day, name change to Farmworkers Day, and date change. Colleges should also update student-facing materials to reflect the new name and date change. Note that any collective bargaining agreements negotiated on or before January 1, 2027 will not be subject to this change, though future agreements will.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1394) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1394).

BASIC NEEDS



The bills in this section are intended to expand student health and basic needs supports, including mental health services and direct aid for vulnerable student populations. These bills are most likely to impact Basic Needs Centers, CalWORKs, and Student Services, including athletics.

AB 1669 (PACHECO): STUDENT HEALTH: MEDICAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE: MENTAL HEALTH.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66720 prohibits a postsecondary education institution that receives state funding from discriminating against anyone on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic listed in state law.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish consistent requirements for voluntary medical leaves of absence at postsecondary educational institutions, including procedures for taking leave and returning to a student's prior course of study.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires, commencing with the 2027-28 academic year, a postsecondary educational institution to adopt a written policy to allow a student to take a voluntary medical leave of absence for a period to be determined by the postsecondary educational institution, or for a period of up to one academic year, whichever is longer. The adopted policy, inclusive of existing leave of absence policies, shall adhere to all the following requirements:

- Not require a student who takes a medical leave of absence to submit an official notice of withdrawal to the institution and not send an official notice of withdrawal to the student for taking a leave of absence. For purposes of this subparagraph, “withdraw” means to no longer recognize the person as a student who may enroll in coursework at the institution.
- Not deny a student returning from a medical leave of absence the ability to enroll in courses offered by the institution or a program of study that the student was previously eligible for upon the student’s return from taking a medical leave of absence.
- This requirement shall not be interpreted as prohibiting an institution from imposing conditions upon a student’s return to campus after taking a medical leave of absence if, before taking the medical leave of absence, the student posed a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- Allow an enrolled student in good academic standing who voluntarily takes a medical leave of absence to return to the student’s program of study in good academic standing following the medical leave of absence.
- Allow for a medical leave of absence to exceed the period allowed under the adopted policy if there is a medical necessity, as determined by the student’s physician or medical provider.
- A postsecondary educational institution may require documentation from the student’s physician or medical provider before granting an extension of the medical leave of absence described in this paragraph.
- Include procedures for how students may notify the institution of the need to take a medical leave of absence.
- Consider whether a student who takes a medical leave of absence may be permitted on campus and may participate in campus activities during the medical leave of absence. In making this consideration, the institution’s primary concern shall be student safety and shall not modify any requirements for participation in campus activities for a student who takes a medical leave of absence.

This bill requires, after a policy is adopted, the postsecondary educational institution to do all of the following, as applicable:

- Provide, as part of established campus orientations, a copy of the medical leave of absence policy to students at all campuses of their respective segments.
- Post the medical leave of absence policy on the postsecondary educational institution's internet website.
- Notify students and faculty of the location of the medical leave of absence policy on the postsecondary educational institution's internet website by sending an email at the beginning of each academic semester or term.
- For a postsecondary educational institution with an on-campus medical center, require the medical center to provide a copy of the medical leave of absence policy to a student who requests information regarding policies or protections for students facing health and mental health challenges and when otherwise appropriate.
- Require the registrar's office and the campus administrator's office to provide a copy of the medical leave of absence policy to a student who requests information on withdrawing from the institution.

This bill provides certain definitions to carry out these requirements and clarifies that this section shall not be construed or implemented in a manner that would prevent a postsecondary educational institution from adjudicating, pursuant to the institution's adjudication procedures, an alleged violation of the student code of conduct, among other specified limitations.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should review and update existing leave of absence policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the new medical leave of absence requirements by the 2027–28 academic year. The Chancellor's Office will update Title V regulations to align with this new law, however implementation is not contingent on Title V changes. The Chancellor's Office will issue guidance as needed.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1669) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1669).

AB 1829 (FONG): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: CALWORKS RECIPIENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM: SERVICES.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 79200 through 79209 establishes the CalWORKs Recipients Education Program (REP) for the purposes of providing special services to CalWORKs recipients and assist CalWORKs recipient students and those students transitioning off CalWORKs in achieving long-term self-sufficiency through coordinated student services offered at a community college.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand the allowable uses of California Community Colleges CalWORKs REP funds to provide direct basic needs assistance and increase flexibility in funding work-study opportunities for eligible students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill allows community colleges to use funds appropriated for the CalWORKs REP for direct aid designed to meet basic needs services and resources, which includes, but is not limited to, housing, food, clothing, feminine hygiene, diapers, technology, childcare services and resources, and mental health services and resources. This bill also allows community colleges to waive the requirement for employers to contribute 25% of the wage for work-study positions for work-study funded by the program if the number of on-campus and off-campus work-study positions will not decrease. Lastly, this bill requires that special services provided through the CalWORKs REP assist CalWORKs recipient students and those students transitioning off CalWORKs in achieving economic mobility, in addition to long-term self-sufficiency.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should review their CalWORKs REP spending plans and identify opportunities to use available program funds for direct basic needs assistance consistent with the new allowable uses. Colleges should also review existing work-study agreements and identify opportunities to expand on-campus and off-campus work-study placements. Where the employer contribution is waived, colleges should ensure that the number of work-study positions does not decrease, as required by this bill. This bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1829) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1829).

AB 1985 (IRWIN): STUDENT HEALTH: ATHLETIC COACHES AND TRAINERS: MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING.**Existing Law:**

Education Code Section 67391 requires the governing board of each community college district, the Trustees of the California State University (CSU), the Board of Directors of the College of Law, San Francisco, and the Regents of the University of California (UC) to adopt and implement a rape and sexual assault education program for, and ensure maximum feasible participation of, students and student services professional staff members. Existing law generally requires certain mandated training for community college employees.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish Sarah Shulze's Law, which requires athletic coaches and trainers to complete mental health training that covers suicide prevention in order to identify and respond to student mental health concerns.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill:

- On or before July 1, 2028, and every two years after, requires each CSU, community college, private or independent higher education institution that receives state financial assistance, and requests each UC, to require athletic coaches and trainers (as a condition of their employment or volunteer service) to complete a student mental health training that covers suicide prevention education, at a minimum.
- Allows the required student mental health training to be provided by an entity that offers free, online, or other types of training courses.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

College HR departments, in consultation with athletic departments, should make all coaches, assistant coaches, and athletic trainers impacted by this bill, including volunteers, aware of this new training requirement and establish procedures to ensure they complete the required training by July 1, 2028, and every two years after. The Chancellor's Office will provide forthcoming guidance on the available trainings that colleges can use to satisfy the requirement.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1985) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1985).

FACILITIES



The bills in this section impact the development and maintenance of community college district facilities and student housing, including housing production, compliance with labor requirements, and long-term planning. These bills are most likely to impact Chief Business Officers, Facilities, and Student Services.

AB 1732 (ALVAREZ): CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: EXEMPTION: AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS: PUBLIC UNIVERSITY OR PUBLIC COLLEGE HOUSING PROJECTS.

Existing Law:

Public Resources Code Section 21080.40 establishes a limited California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for specified actions related to qualifying affordable housing projects.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to streamline the environmental review process for qualifying public college and university student housing projects while maintaining specified labor, environmental, and site eligibility requirements.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill expands an existing CEQA exemption for qualifying affordable housing projects established in AB 1449 (Alvarez, 2023) to also apply to public university or public college housing projects and related actions if they meet, as specified, the following criteria:

- Labor standards, as defined.
- In a city where the city boundaries include some portion of either an urbanized area or urban cluster.
- Within one-half mile walking distance to either a high-quality transit corridor or a major transit stop.
- In a very low vehicle travel area.
- Within one-half mile of a shuttle or bus stop operated by a public university or public college.
- On a site where parcels developed with urban uses to adjoin at least 75% of the perimeter, or at least three sides of a four-sided site.

This bill exempts from CEQA, specified actions related to the following, as defined:

- An action to facilitate the lease, conveyance, or encumbrance of land owned or to purchase by a public agency or lead agency for an affordable housing project or a public university or public college housing project.
- Rezoning specific plan amendments, general plan amendments, or higher education land use plan amendments, to allow construction of an affordable housing project or a public university or public college housing project.
- An action to provide financial assistance, in implementing an affordable housing project, a public college housing project, or a public university housing project.

This bill defines “public university or public college housing project” to mean one or more housing facilities to be occupied by students, faculty, or staff of one or more campuses of the University of California, California State University, or California Community Colleges, including dining, academic, student support service spaces, and other necessary and usual attendant related facilities and equipment, and that satisfies all requirements, as specified.

Lastly, this bill extends the sunset date for the CEQA exemption for both affordable housing projects and public university or public college housing projects from January 1, 2033, to January 1, 2037.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Community colleges considering use of the CEQA exemption should review proposed housing projects against the statutory eligibility criteria, including applicable labor standards, site location and infill requirements, environmental conditions, and other project-specific mandates.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1732) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1732).

AB 2480 (ÁVILA FARÍAS): HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: DENSITY BONUS: STUDENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

Existing Law:

Government Code Section 65915 requires cities and counties to grant a density bonus when an applicant for a housing development of five or more units seeks and agrees to construct a project that is consistent with specified expectations.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand the state's density bonus framework for student housing by providing additional development incentives for qualifying projects that include affordable housing for lower-income and moderate-income students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires local governments to grant an additional density bonus to a student housing development, provided that development would not restrict more than 50% of the total units to moderate-income or lower-income students and is subject to the following requirements:

- The student housing development provides 24% of the total units for lower income students.
- The student housing development meets existing statutory requirements pertaining to density bonus law student housing developments, including requirements of student occupancy, affordability, priority for students experiencing homelessness, and a 55-year affordability restriction.

The student housing development is located in a campus development zone, generally a half-mile radius around a California community college, California State University, or University of California campus.

- The student housing development is not located on a site identified in the city or county's housing element as suitable for the development of units for lower-income households.
- The applicant agrees to include additional rental units for moderate-income students.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges pursuing student housing projects should coordinate with the applicable local government and project developers to determine whether a proposed project qualifies for the additional density bonus provisions.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2480) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2480).

AB 2790 (COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE): CALIFORNIA TELECONNECT FUND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FUND PROGRAM.

Existing Law:

Public Utilities Code Section 280 requires the Public Utilities Commission to develop, implement, and administer a program to advance universal service by providing discounted rates to qualifying schools maintaining kindergarten or any of the grades 1 to 12, inclusive, community colleges, libraries, hospitals, health clinics, and community organizations.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to specify in statute which entities are eligible for discounted rates under the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF).

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill expands the scope of educational facilities eligible for discounted internet services through the (CTF) to include school districts, and county offices of education serving preschools, transitional kindergarten, public library systems, community college districts and noninstructional facilities operated or contracted by qualifying schools, community colleges and libraries, including data centers and administrative offices for eligible educational and library facilities.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Community college districts should assess whether newly eligible facilities may benefit from CTF discounts and monitor implementation guidance regarding application processes. To minimize administrative burden, districts should be attentive to any opportunities for coordinated or consortium-based participation, including existing models facilitated through CENIC.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2790) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2790).

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT



The bills in this section address employment practices, labor relations, and workforce policies across community college districts. These bills are most likely to impact Human Resources (HR), labor relations, and legal counsel, and may require updates to collective bargaining agreements, employment policies, and hiring practices.

AB 2417 (ZBUR): STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM: COMMUNITY COLLEGES: PART-TIME FACULTY.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 87600 through 87612 governs faculty employment and outlines certain rights and procedures related to hiring, probation, evaluation, tenure, and dismissal, depending on whether the faculty member is considered temporary, contract, or regular.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand retirement plan options for temporary community college faculty and provide information to help employees understand the differences among available retirement programs.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill, commencing July 1, 2027, requires the State Teachers' Retirement System, in consultation with the Public Employees' Retirement System, to provide on its internet website links to information regarding all of the following:

- The differences between membership and contributions made to the Defined Benefit Program and the Cash Balance Benefit Program and covered by the federal Social Security Act, as specified.
- Examples covering the amount of time required to vest in benefits offered by the Defined Benefit Program and the Cash Balance Benefit Program and covered by the federal Social Security Act, as defined.
- Examples of the impact of having credits covered by the federal Social Security Act, as provided.

Additionally, this bill defines a person classified as a temporary employee, who is employed by a community college district to perform creditable service, and is required to be provided with the option of membership in the Defined Benefit Program, as specified, the Cash Balance Benefit Program, if offered, and social security.

Furthermore, this bill requires that effective on July 1, 2027, a community college district is required to provide information from the State Teachers' Retirement System, as specified, to a newly hired person who is classified as a temporary employee. This bill also authorizes a community college district to provide an alternative retirement option, in addition to other referenced requirements.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Additional information should be available by the State Teachers' Retirement System.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2417) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2417).

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



The bills in this section require districts to develop or update policies, procedures, and operational processes related to contracting, fiscal reporting, asset management, and campus safety. These bills are likely to impact multiple divisions, including Business Services, Institutional effectiveness, Student Services, and district governing boards.

AB 1809 (FONG): PUBLIC CONTRACTS: SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS.

Existing Law:

Public Contract Code Section 20665.23 authorizes community college districts to utilize job order contracting.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to extend indefinitely community college district authority to use job order contracting for public works projects and provide additional flexibility in the administration and cost evaluation of job order contracts.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill extends the sunset date for community college district authority to utilize job order contracts from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2037.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges that use job order contracting should review their existing procurement policies and procedures to ensure they reflect the extended authorization.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1809) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1809).

AB 2121 (BERMAN): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: CURRENT EXPENSE OF EDUCATION: EXCLUSIONS.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 84362, often cited as the Fifty Percent Law, requires a community college district to expend 50 percent of the district's current expense of education, as defined, for payment of salaries of classroom instructors during each fiscal year.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to provide community college districts with temporary flexibility to exclude, as part of its current expense of education calculation, any unrestricted general fund expenditures on student support functions previously supported through federal discretionary grants that have been terminated, nonrenewed, or defunded due to federal action on or after September 10, 2025.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill authorizes a community college district, for a period of five fiscal years following the 2025-26 fiscal year or until federal funding is fully restored to exclude, as part of its current expense of education, any local unrestricted expenditures from a community college district's unrestricted general fund that maintain student support functions previously funded through federal discretionary grants that have been terminated, nonrenewed, or defunded due to federal action on or after September 10, 2025.

This bill requires community college districts that choose to exclude expenditures to annually certify eligibility to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), consistent with existing law, and requires the CCCCCO to maintain documentation and include certifications received from community college districts in the annual report the CCCCCO submits on the current expense of education.

Additionally, this bill requires community college districts, who elect to use state funds to backfill federal grants, to implement all of the following:

- Present this action at a regular public meeting of the governing board of the community college district.
- Identify the action as a distinct agenda item.
- Provide advance notice of the item to the campus community, including faculty, consistent with the community college district's established practices for noticing governing board meetings, in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Furthermore, this bill has a sunset date of July 1, 2031, or on the first day of the fiscal year following the full restoration of the federal funding for every community college district, whichever occurs first. The provisions of this bill will be repealed on January 1, following the date this bill becomes inoperative.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Assembly Bill 2121 (Education Code Section 84363) allows community college districts to remove qualifying local unrestricted funds used to backfill lost federal grant funding from the denominator of the Fifty Percent Law calculation (Current Expense of Education). Districts must maintain required audit documentation to support these exclusions and submit an annual eligibility certification to the Chancellor's Office. Districts should update local policies and procedures regarding these Fifty Percent Law expenditure exclusions.

These exclusions cannot compromise existing spending on classroom instructor salaries and are subject to a statutory 5-year sunset clause, beginning on July 1, 2026, and becoming inoperative on July 1, 2031, or upon full restoration of federal funding. Additionally, local governing boards must adhere to Ralph M. Brown Act requirements by providing public notice and holding open meetings when considering these exclusions.

The Chancellor's Office is developing a certification form that districts will need to provide and is planning to include guidance within the Fifty Percent Law packet for those districts that are non-compliant.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2121) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2121).

AB 2726 (FONG): SCHOOL FACILITIES: DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS TECHNOLOGY PROPERTY.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 81450 through 81460 authorizes the governing board of a community college district to sell personal property that is no longer needed, is being replaced, or is unsuitable for school use, subject to specified notice and bidding requirements.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to provide community college districts with additional flexibility to dispose of surplus technology property through streamlined disposal methods.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill authorizes community college districts to use additional methods to dispose of surplus technology property, including auctions, trade-in or buyback programs, and certain negotiated sales, subject to governing board policies and procedures.

Before using these disposal methods, a district must adopt policies and procedures that address:

- Determining when technology is eligible for disposal.
- Competition or market-testing practices to support fair value.
- Data security requirements, including device wiping and data destruction.
- Compliance with any conditions attached to state or federal funding used to acquire the technology.
- Donations to public agencies or nonprofit public benefit corporations.

To the extent practicable, districts must structure disposal activities to maximize value returned to the district and promote environmentally responsible recycling, refurbishment, and reuse

This bill requires, to the extent practicable, a community college district to structure the disposition of surplus technology in a manner that maximizes the net proceeds or value returned to the community college district, including through trade-in or buyback arrangements, and minimizes electronic waste and promotes environmentally responsible recycling, refurbishment, and reuse.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges intending to utilize the disposal methods authorized by AB 2726 should ensure that governing board policies and procedures addressing surplus technology property are in place and meet the requirements of the new law.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2726) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2726).

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (ACA) 7 (JACKSON): GOVERNMENT PREFERENCES.

Existing Law:

The California Constitution prohibits the state, in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting, from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or any group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. This prohibition is often referred to as Proposition 209 (1996).

In accordance with Article XVIII, Section 4 of the California Constitution, any amendment or revision to the Constitution must be submitted to the voters for approval by majority vote in a statewide election.

Amendment Purpose:

The purpose of this measure is to propose to the voters of California in 2028 an amendment to the Constitution, relating to preferential treatment under the law.

Requirements Under New Law:

This measure, the Closing the Student Opportunity and Achievement Gap Act, would amend the provisions of Proposition 209 by doing the following:

- Removes “public education” from the list of activities, which are prohibited from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group, on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.
- Adds “public higher education admission and enrollment” to the list of activities, which are prohibited from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group, on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin
- States that the prohibition on discrimination and the granting of preferential treatment only applies to actions of the State, after the section’s effective date, and is limited to the areas of public employment, higher education admission and enrollment, and public contracting

This act requires that the measure appear on the ballot at the November 7, 2028, statewide general election.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Guidance is not available at this time. ACA 7 must first be approved by California voters before any proposed constitutional changes take effect.

The text of this measure is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260ACA7) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260ACA7).

SB 1154 (REYES): PUBLIC CONTRACTS: BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT: COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS.

Existing Law:

Public Contracts Code Section 20651 requires community college districts to award contracts involving expenditures exceeding \$50,000 to the lowest responsible bidder or reject all bids for any of the following: (1) the purchase of equipment, materials, or supplies to be furnished, sold, or leased to the district, (2) services, except construction services, and (3) repairs, including maintenance, as defined, that are not a public project.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to authorize community college districts to use a best value procurement method for public works projects exceeding \$1 million, allowing districts to consider both contractor qualifications and price when selecting a contractor.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill, until January 1, 2031, authorizes the governing board of a community college district to use the best value procurement method representing the best combination of price and qualifications.

This bill authorizes the following:

- The bidder to be selected on the basis of the best value to the governing board of the community college district and requires the governing board to adopt and publish procedures and required guidelines for evaluating the qualifications of the bidders that ensure the best value selections by the community college district is conducted in a fair and impartial manner.
- The governing board of the community college district, on the refusal or failure of the selected bidder for a project to execute a tendered contract, to award it to the bidder with the second lowest best value score, as specified.

Additionally, this bill requires in a contract between the selected best value contractor and a subcontractor, as defined, the percentage of the retention proceeds withheld shall not exceed the percentage specified in the contract between the community college district and the selected best value contractor.

This bill prohibits a best value entity from prequalification or shortlisting, unless they and their subcontractors at every tier provide an enforceable commitment to a district governing board, as defined, to use a skilled and trained workforce on a project labor agreement or contract. This restriction must fall within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades, and the project or contract must have been performed under the extension or renewal of a project labor agreement that was entered into by the community college district prior to January 1, 2027.

Furthermore, this bill requires districts that use the best value procurement method to submit a report to the legislature by January 1, 2030, as specified, and specifies that the report be prepared by an independent third party.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

N/A.

Implementation is at the discretion of community college district governing boards, subject to the requirements of the bill.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1154) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1154).

SB 1374 (NIELLO): RESTRAINING ORDERS: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Existing Law:

Code of Civil Procedure Section 527.85 permits a chief administrative officer of a postsecondary education institution or their designee to seek a temporary restraining order or an injunction on behalf of a student, as specified.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand the circumstances by which postsecondary educational institutions can seek temporary restraining orders and injunctions when a campus is the target of unlawful violence or a credible threat of unlawful violence.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill authorizes a chief executive officer of a postsecondary education institution or their designee, who has become aware of either unlawful violence or a credible threat of unlawful violence towards their campus, to seek a temporary restraining order, as specified, and at the discretion of the court issuing the order, any property of the campus or facility which are owned by the postsecondary education institution. The provisions of this bill have a delayed operative date of July 1, 2029.

This bill also expands the definition of course of conduct that may be used to demonstrate a credible threat or unlawful act to include the following actions:

- Following or stalking a student to or from school.
- Entering the school campus or facility without authorization.
- Following a student during school hours.
- Making telephone calls or sending correspondence including, but not limited to emails, to a student.
- Sending correspondence to a student by any means, including, but not limited to, the use of public or private mail, interoffice mail, facsimile, or email.
- Making telephone calls or sending correspondence, including emails, to the campus or its employees.
- Sending correspondence to the chief administrative officer by any means, including, but not limited to, the use of private mail, interoffice mail, facsimile, or email.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

N/A. The bill's protections are principally exercised by the postsecondary institution's chief administrative officer or a designated officer or employee.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1374). (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1374).

STATE OPERATIONS



The bills in this section address Chancellor’s Office state operations, including public records, reporting requirements, and transparency, with implications for districts regarding reporting timelines and public access to information.

AB 1821 (PACHECO): CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT: AGENCY RESPONSE TIME.

Existing Law:

The California Public Records Act (CPRA) under Government Code Section 7922.525 makes all public records open to public inspection at all times during the office hours of a state or local agency and provides that every person has a right to inspect any public record, except as otherwise exempted from disclosure by law.

Government Code Section 7922.535 mandates each agency, 10 days to review a public records request, decide if they retain the documents, and promptly notify the requestor of the determination, including applicable reasons for delays. In unusual circumstances, as defined, an additional 14 days after the 10-day period to respond to a request for the public record is authorized by a written notice from the head of the agency or a designee, providing reasons for the extension and the date in which a determination is expected to be dispatched.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the timeframes under the California Public Records Act for public agencies to respond to requests for access to records.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill specifies that the number of days an agency has to make a determination on a request for records of whether the agency is in possession of the requested records and whether they will be disclosed is 10 business days, and that this 10-day period can be extended for specified unusual circumstances to 14 business days.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Districts should review their existing California Public Records Act procedures, as appropriate, to ensure response timelines reflect the revised statutory requirements. As with most chaptered legislation, implementation is a local responsibility.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1821) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1821).

AB 2523 (FONG): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: GOVERNING BODIES: BIOGRAPHY AND CONTACT INFORMATION.**Existing Law:**

Education Code Section 70901 requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to provide leadership and direction in the continuing development of the California Community Colleges as an integral and effective element in the structure of public higher education in the state.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to increase transparency and public access to information regarding the governing boards of California's public higher education segments.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and requests the University of California, to post in a conspicuous location on their respective governing boards' internet websites, for each board member, their name, biography, official email address, official phone number, and official mailing address. This bill also encourages each board member to consider public and stakeholder input provided to the board member regarding a matter to be presented at an open meeting of the board before voting on the matter at the open meeting.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office will update its website pursuant to the bill's requirements. Nothing is required by districts.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2523) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2523).

SB 308 (SEYARTO): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: AUDITS: REPORTS.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 84040 and 84040.6 require annual reporting concerning audit exceptions, district audit compliance, and corrective actions.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to streamline Chancellor's Office reporting requirements by authorizing the Chancellor's Office to consolidate duplicative reporting mandates related to audit exceptions, district audit compliance, and corrective actions.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires the Chancellor's Office, beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year, to consolidate reporting of fiscal information related to audit exceptions, district audit compliance, and corrective actions, into a single report.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

N/A

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB308) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB308).

STUDENT SERVICES



The bills in this section address student equity through provisions related to access, student protections, and support services for historically underserved student populations. These bills are most likely to impact Student Services, equity programs, and compliance functions, particularly in areas related to academic accommodations, priority registration, and data collection.

AB 1641 (JACKSON): POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: SEGMENTS: TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Existing Law:

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions as the segments of postsecondary education in the state. The missions and functions of these segments are set forth in the Donahoe Higher Education Act.

Existing law defines a “public institution of higher education,” among other things, to include an institution operated by an Indian tribal government, as defined by federal law.

Bill Purpose:

This bill recognizes tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) as a segment of public higher education in California.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill expands the definition of public higher education to include TCUs located in California and operated by an Indian tribal government.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

N/A

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1641) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1641).

AB 1713 (RANSOM): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: VERIFICATION: ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS.**Existing Law:**

Section 56006 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations requires community colleges to verify a student's disability before providing academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, services, or instruction through Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS). Disability verification may be based on observation or assessment by certificated DSPS staff or review of documentation provided by appropriate agencies or certified or licensed professionals outside of DSPS.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish a statewide standard for verifying disabilities at public postsecondary educational institutions.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires, commencing on September 1, 2027, that if a public higher education institution requires verification of a student's disability before providing academic accommodations requested by the student, the institution shall accept an IEP, an IPP, a 504 plan, or any combination of an IEP, an IPP, or a 504 plan, issued by a local educational agency or a regional center for the student as verification of the existence of the student's disability, as those terms are defined by the bill.

If a student has requested academic accommodations due to a disability, this bill prohibits, commencing on September 1, 2027, a public higher education institution from requiring the student to obtain a new or an additional diagnostic evaluation solely to verify the existence of a disability that is documented in an IEP, an IPP, or a 504 plan issued by a local educational agency or a regional center for the student.

If a student has requested academic accommodations due to a disability, this bill authorizes, commencing on September 1, 2027, a public higher education institution to require supplemental information that is reasonably necessary to evaluate the student's request for academic accommodations and to determine the type of reasonable accommodations that are appropriate and best suited for the student's educational needs. A public higher education institution may use the supplemental information to assess the functional limitations associated with the student's disability and the reasonable accommodations necessary to provide equal access to the institution's programs, services, and activities.

This bill clarifies that an IEP, an IPP, or a 504 plan accepted shall only serve as a verification of the existence of a student's disability, and shall not require a public higher education institution to provide the accommodations, modifications, or services documented. This bill clarifies that it shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should review existing DSPP policies and procedures for verifying disabilities and determining academic accommodations to ensure compliance with the new requirements. Because this bill is largely aligned with existing Title 5 regulations, operational impacts should be minimal.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1713) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1713).

AB 1784 (PELLERIN): POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: NONDISCRIMINATION: PREGNANCY OR PREGNANCY-RELATED ISSUES.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66252 requires postsecondary educational institutions to have an affirmative obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish statewide protections for students experiencing pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill, commencing September 1, 2027, prohibits a postsecondary educational institution from discriminating against a student or applicant based on the actual or potential familial status or marital status of the student or applicant, or based on the student's or applicant's pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions. This bill clarifies that a postsecondary educational institution does not commit discrimination if it permits a student, based on pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, to voluntarily participate in a separate portion of an educational program or activity, if the postsecondary educational institution ensures that the separate portion is comparable to the educational program or activity offered to students who are not pregnant or do not have pregnancy-related conditions.

This bill prohibits a postsecondary educational institution, including the faculty, staff, or other employees of the institution, from doing any of the following based on a student's pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition:

- Require a student to take a leave of absence or withdraw from an educational program or activity.
- Require a student to take a leave of absence or withdraw from an extracurricular program or activity.
- Limit the student's undergraduate or graduate program.

This bill requires a postsecondary educational institution to provide reasonable accommodations to an institutional program for a student experiencing pregnancy or a pregnancy-related condition to ensure the student's equal access to the institution's educational programs and activities, as specified. This bill authorizes a student who chooses to take a leave of absence because the student is pregnant or has recently given birth shall be allowed a period consistent with the policies of the postsecondary educational institution, or a period of 12 additional months, whichever period is longer, to prepare for and take preliminary and qualifying examinations and an extension of at least 12 months toward normative time to degree or certificate while in candidacy for a degree or certificate, unless a longer extension is medically necessary, as specified.

This bill requires a postsecondary educational institution to designate at least one employee of the institution to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under this section. The employee may be the same individual as the institution's federal Title IX coordinator and shall have adequate training on what constitutes discrimination based on the student's pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions and the policies in place.

This bill requires each postsecondary educational institution to have a written policy for students on pregnancy discrimination and procedures for addressing pregnancy discrimination complaints under Title IX and this section. A copy of this policy shall be made available to faculty, staff, and employees in their required training. This bill further requires each postsecondary educational institution to notify pregnant and parenting students of the protections provided by Title IX and this bill, as specified.

This bill requires the Board of Governors to adopt regulations, by July 1, 2027, for a systemwide policy that include the requirements of this bill and requires the governing board of each community college district, by September 1, 2027, to adopt the required written policy.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should review existing policies and procedures addressing pregnancy discrimination, reasonable accommodations, and student leaves of absence to ensure compliance with the new requirements. Colleges should provide reasonable accommodations to students experiencing pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, in consultation with the student and based on the student's individual needs.

The Board of Governors will adopt regulations establishing a systemwide policy and implementation requirements by July 1, 2027. District governing boards will be required to adopt the systemwide policy by September 1, 2027, consistent with the requirements of the bill.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1784) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1784).

AB 2178 (QUIRK-SILVA): COMMUNITY COLLEGES: COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 78070 through 78076 establish the Rising Scholars Network for the purpose of providing services in support of postsecondary education for justice-involved students.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand access to postsecondary education for justice-involved youth in juvenile justice facilities.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill, known as the Juvenile Justice Education Access and Equity Act, authorizes a county probation department and a community college district outside of the home community college district, as defined, or a college that is part of the community college district outside of the home community college district, to enter into an instructional services agreement if the home community college district has declined a request from the county probation department, or has failed to take action within 60 calendar days of a request by the county probation department, to either:

- Enter into an instructional services agreement to provide the requested instructional services, courses, or programs.
- Approve the community college district outside of the home community college district, or a college that is part of the community college district outside of the home community college district, to enter into an instructional services agreement to provide those instructional services, courses, or programs.

Additionally, upon occurrence of referenced conditions, this bill prohibits the home community college district or a college that is part of the home community college district from prohibiting, blocking, or otherwise interfering with the ability of the community college district outside of the home community college district, or a college that is part of that community college district outside of the home community college district, to provide instruction at the juvenile justice facility.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Districts should review their processes for responding to county probation departments' requests for instructional services agreements, including the 60-calendar-day response period and the conditions under which another community college district may provide instruction at a juvenile justice facility. As with most chaptered legislation, implementation is a local responsibility.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2178) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2178).

AB 2203 (TANGIPA): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: PRIORITY REGISTRATION: VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS: FEDERAL GI BILL.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66025.3 prohibits a campus of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), or the California Community Colleges from charging any mandatory systemwide tuition or fees, including enrollment fees, registration fees, differential fees, or incidental fees to specified students who apply for a California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) fee waiver. Existing law authorizes priority enrollment for specified populations, including veterans.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to give priority registration to students who receive the CalVet fee waiver and federal GI Bill benefits.

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill, commencing with the 2028–29 academic year, requires the CSU and each community college district, and requests the UC, to grant priority enrollment for the following:

- A student who receives a CalVet fee waiver.
- A student who is using any federal GI Bill benefits.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Districts should update their priority registration policies and procedures to include students who are recipients of the CalVet fee waiver or federal GI Bill benefits beginning with the 2028–29 academic year.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2203) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2203).

AB 2374 (FONG): POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: DESIGNATION OF CALIFORNIA ASIAN AMERICAN- AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 66076 through 66076.4 establishes the Designation of California Black-Serving Institutions to recognize colleges and universities that excel at providing academic resources to Black and African American students enrolled in degree or certificate programs offered by colleges and universities.

Title III, Part A, Section 3116 (codified at 20 U.S. Code Section 1059g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 authorizes federal grants and assistance for Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to establish a California Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANHPI) designation, to recognize colleges and universities that excel at providing academic resources to AANHPI students enrolled in degree or certificate programs offered by colleges and universities.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill establishes the Designation of California AANHPI to recognize colleges and universities that excel at providing academic resources to AANHPI students enrolled in degree or certificate programs, for a period of five academic years, as defined.

Additionally, this bill mandates an AANHPI governing board, subject to the Bagley-Keene Meeting Act requirements, as specified, and must include a designee from the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, among others.

Furthermore, this bill designates the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office as the managing entity.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

The Chancellor's Office will be designing the program and application materials pursuant to legislation requirements. Colleges can expect guidance in Fall 2026 or early Winter 2027. To prepare, community colleges interested in obtaining the Designation of California AANHPI should review the eligibility requirements, application criteria, and guidance established by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2374) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2374).

SB 892 (GROVE): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: PRIORITY REGISTRATION: MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND STATE GUARD.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66025.8 requires the California State University (CSU) and each community college district, and requests the University of California (UC), to grant priority registration for enrollment to a member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is a resident of California and who has received an honorable discharge, a general discharge, or an other than honorable discharge, and to any member or former member of the State Guard, for any academic term attended at one of these institutions for 4 academic years after leaving state or federal active duty for use within 15 years of leaving state or federal active duty.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to remove the 15-year time limit on when eligible military members and former members can use priority enrollment benefits.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill, beginning July 1, 2027, requires a campus of CSU, and of the California Community Colleges, and requests a campus of the UC, that administers a priority enrollment system, to provide priority enrollment registration to any California resident who is a member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, without regard to number of years removed from state or federal active duty and without limitation on the number of years a student may receive priority status.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Districts should update their priority registration policies and procedures to ensure eligible current and former members of the United States Armed Forces and California State Guard receive priority registration without regard to the date of separation from active duty or the length of time they have previously used the benefit.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB892) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB892).

SB 1114 (CABALDON): DATA COLLECTION: SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND INTERSEX STATUS: DISCLOSURE.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66027 requests the California State University, the University of California, and each community college district, to allow the faculty, staff, and students to identify their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression on any forms used to collect specified demographic data and to report that data.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to limit the disclosure of personally identifiable information for data collected concerning a person's sexuality and gender demographic information (known as SOGISC).

Requirements Under New Law:

Specifically, this bill restricts disclosure of personally identifiable information collected by colleges from data concerning sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, including in legislative reporting or California Public Records Act requests.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges that collect SOGISC data must ensure that any data reported or presented publicly excludes personally identifiable information.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1114) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1114).

SB 1255 (REYES): POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: DESIGNATION OF CALIFORNIA HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**Existing Law:**

Education Code Sections 66076 through 66076.4 establishes the Designation of California Black-Serving Institutions to recognize colleges and universities that excel at providing academic resources to Black and African American students enrolled in degree or certificate programs offered by colleges and universities.

20 U.S. Code Section 1101 et seq. (U.S.C. Chapter 28, Subchapter V, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965) establishes federal grant programs and financial support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) to expand educational opportunities and improve academic attainment for Hispanic and low-income students.

42 U.S.C. Section 1862o-12 establishes the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program under the National Science Foundation to enhance undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education quality and improve student retention and graduation rates in STEM associate's and baccalaureate degree programs.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to create a California Hispanic-Serving (HSI) Institution designation to recognize colleges and universities that provide strong academic support to Latino students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill establishes the Designation of California HSI to recognize colleges and universities that excel at providing academic resources to Latino students enrolled in degree or certificate programs offered by colleges and universities.

Additionally, this bill also establishes the California State University Chancellor's Office as the managing entity for initial and renewal designations, as defined, that is required to act as a neutral administrative body to implement the following duties:

- Developing application processes that contain requirements, as defined, including setting one application deadline each year on a determined date.
- Accepting initial and renewal applications from applicants.
- Processing each application received and presenting those applications to the governing board at least once annually on a date determined by the governing board.
- Upon the governing board's approval or denial of an applicant's application, informing the applicant on this outcome.
- Preparing and delivering to an applicant approved by the governing board to receive a designation, as specified, an appropriate insignia recognizing the designation.

Lastly, this bill mandates a Designation of California HSI governing board, as specified, and is subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Community colleges interested in obtaining the Designation of California HSI should review the eligibility requirements and application criteria established by the Chancellor's Office of the California State University, as the HSI managing entity. The Designation of the California HSI initial and renewal application is voluntary and awarded for five academic years, as specified.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1255) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1255).

STUDENT SAFETY AND TITLE IX PROTECTIONS



The bills in this section are intended to strengthen student safety protections, including sexual harassment policies, health services, and training requirements. These bills are most likely to impact Student Services, Title IX coordination, and campus health centers.

AB 1845 (KRELL): STUDENT SAFETY: HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 67381.1 requires the governing board of each community college district to adopt rules requiring community college campuses to enter into written agreements with local law enforcement agencies that clarify operational responsibilities for investigations of certain violent crimes occurring on campus.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to equip campus staff to identify, respond to, and manage human trafficking situations.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill, the Student Safety and Anti-Exploitation Act, requires a postsecondary institution, by July 1, 2027, and as defined, to include all of the following as part of training it provides for employees and ensure each employee completes the training:

- The definition of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- Myths and misconceptions about human trafficking.
- Physical and mental signs to be aware of that may indicate that human trafficking is occurring.
- Guidance on how to identify individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.
- Protocols on how to report human trafficking, including, but not limited to, the national hotlines available, as specified.

This bill clarifies that it does not require a postsecondary institution to provide separate training for identification of human trafficking and may include the training in an existing employee training. The employee training may include information and materials used in training by private nonprofit organizations that represent the interests of human trafficking victims and information and materials produced by the Department of Justice. This bill clarifies that failing to report human trafficking to a postsecondary institution or to local law enforcement agencies by an employee of the postsecondary institution shall not, by itself, result in the liability of a postsecondary institution and requires the institution to post and display a model notice, as specified.

This bill requires the governing board of each community college district, as a condition of receiving public funds for student financial assistance, to require the appropriate officials compile records on all occurrences reported to campus police, and arrests for, crimes that are committed on campus that involve human trafficking.

This bill requires each postsecondary institution, as a condition to receive state funds for student financial assistance, to adopt a policy concerning incidents of human trafficking that involve students, faculty, or staff. This bill requires the policy to include all of the following:

- A statement that human trafficking is a state and federal crime.
- A statement that a conviction of human trafficking by a criminal court is a violation of the student and employee code of conduct.
- Physical and mental signs to be aware of that may indicate that human trafficking is occurring.
- Guidance on how to identify individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.
- Protocols on how to report human trafficking, as specified.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Colleges should seek out available free or low cost resources to update existing employee training programs to ensure that, by July 1, 2027, employees receive annual training addressing the definition of human trafficking. The Chancellor's Office will issue guidance as needed.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information website (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1845).

AB 1928 (FONG): SEX EQUITY: SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66252 requires postsecondary educational institutions to have an affirmative obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to strengthen protections for students and other parties involved in postsecondary sexual harassment proceedings.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires the governing board of each postsecondary institution, as defined, as a condition to receive state financial assistance, to permit each complainant or respondent of a sexual harassment complaint to have a support person, in addition to an adviser, accompany the parties of a sexual harassment complaint during the grievance procedures and during any stage of the process.

This bill updates the grievance procedures for a postsecondary institution to require, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, that each student party be afforded the opportunity have both a support person of their choice and an adviser of their choice accompany the student party during any stage of the process, including, but not limited to, reporting, investigation, hearing, sanctioning, or any informal resolution, as opposed to the student parties having either a support person or an adviser.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

This bill takes effect January 1, 2027. The Chancellor's Office will issue guidance as needed.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1928) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1928).

AB 2212 (BAUER-KAHAN): POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: SEXUAL HARASSMENT, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING POLICIES: STUDENT TRAINING.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 67385.7 requires each postsecondary educational institution that receives state financial assistance to annually train its students on sexual violence and sexual harassment.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to ensure uniform standards for defining, investigating, and remediating technology-facilitated sexual harassment.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill expands or adds the following definitions to address technology-facilitated sexual harassment and sexual exploitation:

- Expands the definition of “sexual harassment” to include technology-facilitated sexual harassment, including cyber sexual bullying, cyber stalking, sextortion, and doxing.
- Defines “cyber sexual bullying” to include the electronic dissemination of identifiable nude, seminude, or sexually explicit images or other visual recordings that reasonably may cause fear of harm, substantially detrimental effects on physical or mental health, substantial interference with academic or employment performance, or substantial interference with participation in an educational institution.
- Defines “cyber stalking” as stalking conducted through an electronic communication device.
- Defines “sextortion” as threatening to use sexual or intimate images or videos to compel another person to produce additional images or videos, engage in sexual acts, or provide anything of value.
- Defines “doxing” as the electronic distribution of specified personal identifying information, without consent and with the intent to place another person or their immediate family in reasonable fear for their safety or to cause unwanted physical contact, injury, or harassment.
- Expands the definition of “sexual exploitation” to include the creation, generation, or distribution of digitized sexually explicit material without the written consent of the depicted individual, including digitally created or altered material depicting a person engaging in sexual conduct in which the person did not engage.
- Defines “written consent” as a knowing and voluntary written agreement signed by the depicted individual that describes the digitized sexually explicit material and the visual or audiovisual work in which it will be incorporated.

This bill requires the expanded definitions of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation to be incorporated into existing postsecondary requirements concerning student education and annual training on sexual violence and sexual harassment. The bill also updates related educational, preventive, reporting, and hiring provisions to reflect the expanded definitions.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

This bill takes effect January 1, 2027. The Chancellor's Office will issue guidance as needed.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2212) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2212).

AB 2540 (STEFANI): PUBLIC HEALTH: PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: STUDENT HEALTH CENTERS: ABORTION BY MEDICATION TECHNIQUES.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 76355 authorizes the governing board of a community college district to require students to pay a fee in the total amount of not more than ten dollars (\$10) for each semester for health supervision and services, including direct or indirect medical and hospitalization services or the operation of a student health center or centers.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand access to medication abortion for community college students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill, as it pertains to the California Community Colleges, requires a community college with a student health center, by January 1, 2029, to do both of the following:

- Offer access to abortion by medication techniques. This service may be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, through telehealth services, by providers associated with a contracted external agency, or through partnerships with other community health providers, as appropriate.
- A community college shall be deemed to provide access through a partnership with a community health provider if the community college student health center has established a written referral relationship, memorandum of understanding, or contract with one or more licensed providers capable of providing abortion by medication techniques.
- A community college may also satisfy this requirement by providing information, facilitating referrals or warm handoffs, assisting students in identifying support resources, or maintaining current referral information for participating providers.
- Promote awareness of the services for abortion by medication techniques that the student health center offers access to, provide that information to students, and post the availability of those services on its internet website.

This bill requires, upon request from a community college student health center, the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to assist and advise on potential pathways for the student health center to bill public programs and health insurance providers

to help pay for the costs of providing access to abortion by medication techniques. This bill authorizes the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to enter into a statewide agreement with a health provider to provide community college student health centers with the services and resources needed to meet the requirements of this bill.

This bill requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, by January 1, 2030, to submit a report to the Legislature with specified abortion by medication techniques by community colleges. This bill specifies that it is contingent upon an appropriation for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute to support the cost, both direct and indirect, of meeting these requirements.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Colleges with student health centers should review existing student health center services and procedures to determine how access to abortion by medication techniques may be incorporated into their health care delivery model. Colleges should also coordinate with health care providers and community health partners to ensure that services are provided in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements and professional standards.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2540) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2540).

AB 2563 (PACHECO): SEX DISCRIMINATION: SCOPE.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66252 requires postsecondary educational institutions to have an affirmative obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to clarify and establish a consistent definition of “sex” and “sex discrimination.”

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill clarifies that “sex,” as used within California antidiscrimination laws, includes gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy and related conditions, and other specified traits or conditions.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

This bill takes effect January 1, 2027. The Chancellor’s Office will issue guidance as needed.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2563) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2563).

SB 1328 (CERVANTES): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT: CAMPUS CONTACT.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66271.2 requires the Trustees of the California State University (CSU) and the governing board of each community college district to designate an employee at each of their respective campuses as a point of contact for the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, pansexual, transgender, gender-nonconforming, intersex, and two-spirit faculty, staff, and students at the respective campus.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to promote safe, and supportive learning and welcoming environments for LGBTQ + faculty, staff, and students.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires the Trustees of the CSU and the governing board of a community college district to designate an employee as a point of contact for the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, pansexual, transgender, gender-nonconforming, intersex, and two-spirit faculty, staff, and students of a branch campus, satellite location, or site other than the main campus by complying with either of the following:

- Designating an additional employee for the branch campus, satellite location, or site other than the main campus.
- Requiring the employee for the main campus to hold virtual or in-person office hours every week, every month, or regularly as determined by the employee, at a branch campus, satellite location, or site other than the main campus.

This bill requires, at minimum, the name and contact information of the employee described above to be published on the internet website for the branch campus, satellite location, or site other than the main campus, and be included in any printed and online directories for the branch campus, satellite location, or site other than the main campus. This bill defines the terms “branch campus,” “main campus,” and “satellite location” to carry out these requirements.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

Colleges should identify each branch campus, satellite location, or other non-main campus site that meets the definition established by the bill and determine the appropriate employee to serve as the confidential LGBTQ+ point of contact. The bill requires the designated employee to be someone other than the campus Title IX coordinator.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1328) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB1328).

WORKFORCE AND CAREER EDUCATION



The bills in this section enact changes to workforce education programs and career pathways, including work-based learning, teacher credentialing, and intersegmental partnerships. These bills are most likely to impact CTE faculty and deans, curriculum leadership, and workforce program administrators.

AB 1534 (IRWIN): FEDERAL WORKFORCE PELL GRANT PROGRAM: LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS: PARTICIPANT TRAINING REQUIREMENT.

Existing Law:

Education Code 69870 establishes implementation of the federal Workforce Pell program, including alignment of the Cal Grant C program.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand access to federal Pell Grants for students enrolled in short-term workforce training programs by establishing a state consumer protection standard for postsecondary institutions.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill prohibits a public and private higher education institutions from disbursing Workforce Pell Grant program funds to students enrolled in the institution's short-term

programs, and from advertising, marketing, or informing students about the availability of those funds, unless the institution has met both of the following:

- Obtained authorization from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), on behalf of the Governor.
- Obtained approvals and met all requirements set forth by the United States Department of Education (USDE).

This bill also prohibits CSAC from authorizing public and private higher education institutions to receive Workforce Pell Grant program funds for a short program, if it partners, contracts, or affiliates with an entity, including an institution or organization that is not accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the USDE, and that provides the instructors for the instruction of the short-term program, unless specified conditions apply, including:

- The institution partners, contracts, or affiliates with the entity for the purpose of offering instruction for a registered apprenticeship program.
- The short-term program has a contract education agreement with a participating community college and a provider, as defined, that meets all federal and Workforce Pell Grant program requirements.

This bill requires the institution to meet all of the requirements, as defined, regarding clear and prominent disclosure of information. Additionally, this bill requires the institution to ensure that the entity is a company that is separate from the institution and provides a description of all of the services that the entity is contracted to implement for the institution, in all of the following places that include:

- On the institution's internet website and any internet website controlled by the entity that is related to the institution's short-term program.
- In marketing materials used by the institution or the entity about the short-term program.
- In oral communications with prospective students of the short-term program that is made by the institution or the entity.

Furthermore, this bill requires the institution to ensure that:

- The entity is not paid using incentive compensation or tuition sharing with the institution.
- The entity does not exercise authority of any kind over the institution's governance or decision-making processes, including participation in any deliberative or decision-making committee, task force, or other body, related to the design or development of core curriculum or instruction, admission standards, determining enrollment targets, or creation of new short-term programs.

- The entity does not offer, or affiliates with a company that offers financing for the short-term program using a private educational loan, including the specified types of financing.

Chancellor’s Office Guidance:

As noted in the Requirements section, institutions cannot advertise, market, or disburse Workforce Pell funds for eligible short-term programs before obtaining the required state authorization and federal approvals from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and U.S. Department of Education. Districts considering participation in the federal Workforce Pell Grant program should monitor state and federal implementation requirements, including guidance from the CSAC. To date, CSAC has published information on their website: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/workforce-pell>.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1534) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1534).

AB 2206 (FONG): TEACHER CREDENTIALING: COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 78040 through 78043 establish the California Community College Baccalaureate Degree Program for the purpose of offering workforce-oriented baccalaureate degrees at community colleges.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to clarify that community colleges may not serve as teacher preparation institutions and recommend candidates for teaching credentials.

Requirements Under New Law:

- Excludes community college districts from the definition of an “institution of higher education” for purposes of specified credentialing statutes.
- Prohibits the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) from approving community colleges as teacher preparation institutions under the general authority applicable to regionally accredited institutions of higher education.
- Prohibits a community college or community college district from offering an integrated teacher preparation program that allows candidates to complete professional preparation concurrently with subject matter preparation while earning a bachelor’s degree.
- Clarifies that a baccalaureate degree earned from a community college that is regionally accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges satisfies credentialing

degree requirements, only if it includes coursework demonstrating proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

N/A

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information website (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2206).

AB 2466 (FONG): STRONG WORKFORCE PROGRAM: WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: REGIONAL CONSORTIA.

Existing Law:

Education Code Sections 88820 through 88833 establish the Strong Workforce Program (SWP), to expand high-quality career technical education and workforce development across K-14, funded through regional consortia and apportioned directly to schools and community college districts.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to bolster student employability and strengthen local workforce pipelines by authorizing SWP funds that are apportioned directly to regional consortia or a community college, as specified, to also be used to provide direct support to students, employers or both for paid work-based learning, included, but not limited to apprenticeships, internships, externships and student-run enterprises to increase employability and workforce opportunities.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires the Chancellor's Office, no later than June 30, 2027, to revise any policies, regulations and guidance necessary to provide students, employers, or both with work-based learning opportunities that may be directly supported with funds appropriated directly to regional consortia, or to a community college district, as specified.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Districts should remain attentive to guidance from the Chancellor's Office by Fall 2026.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2466) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2466).

AB 2580 (MURATSUCHI): TEACHER CREDENTIALING: PROGRAMS OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION: CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 66010.4, under the Donahoe Education Act, requires the California Community Colleges' primary mission to offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division instruction level, including an associate degree or certificate academic level; the California State University (CSU) shall offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through a master's degree in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional education, including teacher education.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to expand pathways into the teaching profession by strengthening partnerships between the California community colleges and California State University campuses.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill requires by July 1, 2027, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the Chancellor of the CSU to develop a plan to increase professional teacher preparation partnerships between CSU campuses and community college districts. Additionally, this bill requires the plan to address at least both of the following, including:

- The expansion of online programs of professional preparation offered by the CSU in partnership with community college districts to increase access and opportunities for students pursuing teaching careers in rural communities.
- The expansion of educator preparation pathways between community college districts and the CSU to include opportunities for concurrent enrollment at the CSU in teacher preparation coursework for community college students pursuing a teaching credential.

Furthermore, implementation of the plan is contingent upon appropriations, per the annual Budget Act or relevant statute. This bill will repeal on January 1, 2033.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

No action by colleges is required at this time.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2580) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2580).

SB 971 (CHOI): HEALTHY AGING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Existing Law:

Education Code Section 84757 requires that noncredit courses, noncredit classes, and support services are eligible for funding, including, among others, education programs for older adults.

Education Code Section 84900 through 84920 establishes the California Adult Education Program under the administration of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Bill Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to offer a community-based approach by allowing local health departments to partner with local entities, as specified, to deliver programs tailored to older adults' needs, that will strengthen local capacity to serve them, improve health outcomes, and foster greater community connection.

Requirements Under New Law:

This bill authorizes that if a community-based program is established, program activities may include, but are not limited to:

- technology assistance
- physical activity
- music or arts programming
- cultural programming
- language learning opportunities
- shared meals
- other community-based enrichment activities that support healthy aging and social connection

Additionally, this bill authorizes implementation that is voluntary and subject to the availability of local resources, partnerships, and funding. Furthermore, this bill prohibits the Healthy Aging Community Partnership Program from duplicating or supplanting current adult education courses, classes, and services provided by the California Community Colleges, including the California Adult Education Program, as specified.

Chancellor's Office Guidance:

Districts will need to avoid entering into partnerships with local entities that duplicate or supplant current California Adult Education Programs and continue to maintain compliance to protocols with existing statutory requirements, including but not limited to, seeking review and approval from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the

Superintendent of Public Instruction before establishing any older adult community-based programs.

The text of this bill is available on the California Legislative Information [website](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB971) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB971).



TIER 2 STATE LEGISLATION

Tier 2 bills are unlikely to significantly alter current policies, procedures, or practices, but they may have an indirect effect on the programs and/or services of the California Community Colleges, students, faculty, staff, and/or the Chancellor's Office. These bills may still result in some minor changes to core functions.

AB 883 (LOWENTHAL): DATA BROKERS: ACCESSIBLE DELETION MECHANISM: DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND JUDGES.

Summary: This bill requires, effective on July 1, 2027, the California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy) to develop and distribute informational materials on how state and local elected officials and judges can use CalPrivacy's accessible deletion mechanism, and it reduces compliance timelines in the Delete Act from 45 days to 30 days.

AB 1159 (ADDIS): STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION.

Summary: This bill extends the provisions of the K–12 Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act (KOPIPA) and the Early Learning Personal Information Protection Act (ELPIPA) to operators of online services used for school purposes. Most relevantly, it also enacts the Higher Education Student Information Protection Act (HESIPA), which would protect the personal information of a student enrolled in a higher education institution, effective July 1, 2027.

AB 1578 (JACKSON): STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS: SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING AND EDUCATION: ANTI-HATE SPEECH TRAINING.

Summary: This bill requires, effective on January 1, 2028, state and local officials to complete anti-hate speech training, as part of existing sexual harassment prevention training, as specified.

AB 1627 (ÁVILA FARÍAS): PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Summary: This bill disqualifies a person from being a peace officer in California if they were previously employed as a federal or out-of-state law enforcement officer who engaged in immigration enforcement.

AB 1707 (DAVIES): ELECTRICIANS: CERTIFICATION APPLICATION, EXAMINATION, AND RENEWAL.

Summary: This bill authorized an individual who fails the electrician certification examination to reapply immediately and retake the examination 21 days after approval, and transfers authority over the certification of electricians from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to the Contractors State License Board, beginning July 1, 2028, contingent upon appropriation.

AB 1731 (WILSON): OFFICE OF FARM TO FORK: HEALTHY FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM.

Summary: This bill requires the Office of Farm to Fork within the California Department of Food and Agriculture, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program for the purpose of identifying vendors in California that have the capacity to provide healthy foods to California public institutions, including community colleges.

AB 1841 (RAMOS): STATE HOLIDAYS: NATIVE AMERICAN DAY.

Summary: Upon determination by the California Department of Human Resources that sufficient funds exist to provide a state holiday to all state employees, this bill entitles state employees to a holiday on the fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day.”

AB 1883 (BRYAN): WORKPLACE SURVEILLANCE TOOLS.

Summary: This bill prohibits employers from using workplace surveillance tools that use AI to collect neural data or recognize an individual’s emotional state, unless reasonably necessary to comply with specified federal military circumstances.

AB 1994 (ALVAREZ): DEFENDING IMMIGRANT VICTIMS ACT.

Summary: This bill establishes the Defending Immigrant Victims Act, which requires law enforcement agencies to inform a victim of a crime of their federal immigration relief rights and provide them with an “Immigrant Victims Rights and Resources” resource card.

AB 2118 (HOOVER): AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HIGH ROAD JOBS ACT OF 2022: USE BY RIGHT: OBJECTIVE STANDARDS.

Summary: This bill makes minor changes to the Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022 established by AB 2011 (Wicks, Chapter 647, Statutes of 2022).

AB 2187 (RAMOS): PUBLIC CONTRACTS: CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES.

Summary: This bill exempts California Native American tribes from certain requirements governing public contracts for goods and services, as specified.

AB 2204 (GABRIEL): PRISONS: ORGANIZED SPORTS PROGRAMMING.

Summary: This bill establishes the Second Chance Sports Act, helping to bring organized sports programming to correctional facilities operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in order to improve inmate rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

AB 2640 (HADWICK): COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES: STATE MANDATES.

Summary: This bill authorizes a local agency, after receiving a notice from the State Controller (SCO) of any adjustments resulting from an audit of mandate reimbursement claims, to have the SCO offset any reduced reimbursement amount from any balances of unpaid reimbursement claims that are owed to the local agency, as specified.

SB 691 (WAHAB): BODY-WORN CAMERAS: POLICIES.

Summary: This bill requires, on or before July 1, 2027, each law enforcement agency that has a body-worn camera policy to update that policy to include a procedure for emergency service personnel to request the redaction of recordings of a patient undergoing medical or psychological evaluation, procedure, or treatment, and to maintain an unredacted copy of the recording consistent with the policies and procedures of the agency.

SB 845 (PÉREZ): PUPIL INSTRUCTION: CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION, CAREER EDUCATION, AND APPRENTICESHIPS.

Summary: This bill makes various changes to the state's framework for career technical education (CTE), work-based learning, and youth apprenticeships, including: (1) establishing definitions and common requirements for work-based learning activities; (2) expanding the authority of local educational agencies and state special schools to offer work-based learning through work experience education (WEE), CTE, early college credit, and other existing programs; (3) allowing pupils beginning in grade 10 to receive credit for WEE; (4) clarifying workers' compensation, liability, and student protections for work-based learning activities; and (5) establishing requirements for school-based youth apprenticeship programs registered with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards.

SB 947 (MCNERNEY): EMPLOYMENT: AUTOMATED DECISION SYSTEMS.

Summary: This bill, beginning on July 1, 2027, prohibits an employer from using an automated decision system (ADS) to perform certain functions, such as determining worker termination decisions, and limits the purposes for and way in which an ADS may be used. It also requires employers to provide worker data used by an ADS to make an employment-related determination, if requested.

SB 951 (REYES): EMPLOYMENT: TECHNOLOGICAL DISPLACEMENT: NOTICE.

Summary: This bill revises the Cal/WARN Act to require employers to include specified details in notices about job displacements that result from AI or other automated technology replacing workers. It also requires a report to the Legislature on the effects of AI on business hiring practices.

SB 1107 (STERN): SCHOOL FACILITIES: DESIGN-BUILD: SHADE STRUCTURES.

Summary: This bill authorizes school districts to bundle multiple comparable shade structure projects at different sites into a single design-build solicitation, subject to specified requirements, and expands an existing exemption from accessible path-of-travel requirements under the California Building Standards Code for certain freestanding shade structures to also apply to shade structures that are integrated into playground equipment.

SB 1164 (CERVANTES): ELECTIONS.

Summary: This bill revises and expands the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 with a state voting rights act that seeks to protect voters from voter suppression and vote dilution.

SB 1187 (DURAZO): OPEN MEETINGS.

Summary: This bill removes specified language access requirements for the purposes of the Ralph M. Brown Act that were established by SB 707 (Durazo, Chapter 327, Statutes of 2025).

SB 1244 (ALLEN): PUBLIC AGENCY BENEFITS INTERMEDIARY COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE ACT.

Summary: This bill establishes disclosure requirements for brokers, agents, consultants, advisors, and other service providers that provide brokerage services or consulting services to California public agencies, in connection with health care employee benefits, regardless of whether the covered service provider is domiciled, headquartered, or maintains a principal place of business within or outside of this state.

SB 1302 (WAHAB): NURSING.

Summary: This bill makes various changes to the regulation of registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses recommended as part of the joint sunset review oversight of the Board of Registered Nursing.

SB 1387 (STERN): STATE AGENCIES: COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA: JEWISH IDENTITY.

Summary: This bill defines ethnicity to include Jewish identity. It also requires state agencies to include a separate category for Jewish ancestry or ethnicity when collecting demographic data, include this separate category in relevant demographic reports, and make this data available to the public.



TIER 3 STATE LEGISLATION

Tier 3 bills have direct impacts to other higher education segments and partners including the University of California, California State University, and K-12 institutions. These bills generally do not require any action by community colleges but depending on the scope of the bill, may have indirect impacts to our segment.

AB 1093 (SOLACHE): PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS: PLAN.

Summary: This bill establishes, until January 1, 2032, the California-Mexico Higher Education Development and Academic Exchange Program for 400 students who attend a campus of the University of California, the California State University, or the California Community Colleges to attend universities in Mexico and for 400 students who attend a university in Mexico to attend a public postsecondary institution in California.

AB 1235 (ROGERS): CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY: SKILLED AND TRAINED WORKFORCE REQUIREMENT.

Summary: This bill requires that: (1) contractors on California State University design-build projects to commit that they and their subcontractors will use a skilled and trained workforce for work in apprenticeable occupations in the building and construction trades; and (2) includes exceptions for projects covered by specified project labor agreements and for housing projects, including dormitories.

AB 1486 (SORIA): CLIMATE RESILIENCY: RESEARCH FARMS: GRANT PROGRAM.

Summary: This bill appropriates \$15 million of Proposition 4 (climate bond) funding to the California Department of Education and the Department of Food and Agriculture in order to provide grants to public higher education institutions designated by the University of California and California State University as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agricultural Research Institutes, to develop research farms to improve climate resiliency.

AB 1818 (ORTEGA): CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY: EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS: MEETING AND CONFERRING.

Summary: This bill amends the Higher Education Employer–Employee Relations Act by shifting the determinations from the California State University (CSU) to the Public Employment Retirement Board, of whether the state has funded or acted on changes to laws necessary to implement a memorandum of agreement between CSU and its employee unions.

AB 1904 (GIPSON): TEACHERS: CREDENTIALLED EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

Summary: This bill establishes a framework for the approval, oversight, and operation of credentialed educator apprenticeship programs in California.

AB 2008 (PATEL): LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES: PLANNING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: TEMPLATE: REPEALER.

Summary: This bill requires the California Department of Education to develop a standardized template for programmatic or expenditure reports for competitive state grant programs. It also requires future bills that mandate legislative reporting for school districts, county offices of education, and/or charter schools to include a sunset date.

AB 2148 (MURATSUCHI): ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES: CONTRACTORS: NATURAL PERSONS.

Summary: This bill clarifies that all school employees and contractors must be natural, human persons.

SB 813 (MCNERNEY): INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION ORGANIZATIONS.

Summary: This bill regulates independent verification organizations (IVOs) that assess the risks of AI and convenes working groups to develop standards and practices for IVOs.

SB 928 (CERVANTES): CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY: FACULTY EMPLOYEES.

Summary: This bill requires that California State University faculty be human persons.

SB 1079 (STERN): DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION: FIRE INNOVATION UNIT.

Summary: This bill establishes the Fire Innovation Unit within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). It authorizes the unit to establish and administer a grant program to fund early-stage, mature, or dual-use technology projects that enhance wildfire readiness, mitigation, or response. It also authorizes the unit to (1) administer or monitor pilot, prototype, or demonstration projects to evaluate, mature, and validate wildfire-related technologies, (2) collaborate with public and private educational and research institutions on wildfire technology and innovation, (3) establish testbeds to test or evaluate emerging technologies, (4) provide technical assistance to local, state, federal, and international fire agencies to facilitate deployment of wildfire-related technologies, (5) maintain a publicly accessible resource to provide visibility into these wildfire-related technologies, and (6) provide opportunities for participation in demonstrations, pilot programs, and field testing.

SB 1349 (GONZALEZ): TAXATION: TAX EXPENDITURES: LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE: ASSESSMENT, REPORT, AND RECOMMENDATION.

Summary: Existing law, including, but not limited to, property tax law, the Sales and Use Tax Law, the Personal Income Tax Law, the Corporation Tax Law, the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Law, the law governing the taxation of insurers, the Use Fuel Tax Law, and the Diesel Fuel Tax Law, provides for tax expenditures, including exemptions, deductions, exclusions, and credits against the taxes imposed by those laws. Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to comprehensively assess the major tax expenditures, as defined, of the state, write and publish a report on each major tax expenditure, and make a recommendation to the Legislature based on each report. It also requires that LAO, as part of the comprehensive assessments, to identify any savings that the Legislature can realize by reducing or limiting the major tax expenditures and require them to consider certain criteria when finalizing each report, including the extent to which the major tax expenditure is a cost-effective use of resources compared to other options to address the same purpose, intent, or goal. The LAO is required to complete and publish on its internet website its first report on a major tax expenditure by January 1, 2028, and to complete and publish on its internet website each subsequent report on a major tax expenditure annually in a sequence determined by the office thereafter until the fifth and final report is submitted on January 1, 2032. Requires the Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation, and the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation, to hold a joint public hearing on these reports by each August 15 of the second year of the legislative session, as specified.



BUDGET BILLS AND BUDGET TRAILER BILLS

The following policy and programmatic changes were enacted through budget bills and budget trailer bills. Implementation guidance for most of these bills are included in the annual [Chancellor's Office Compendium of Allocations & Resources](https://cocco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/2025-26-compendium-of-allocations-and-resources-oct-2025-a11y.pdf) (cocco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/2025-26-compendium-of-allocations-and-resources-oct-2025-a11y.pdf).

PROPOSITION 98 STRUCTURE

PROPOSITION 98 FUNDING LEVEL

The 2026 Budget Act establishes a \$128 billion Proposition 98 minimum guarantee for 2026-27, reflecting increased resources for K-12 and community colleges compared with prior-year levels. For the California Community Colleges, the enacted budget provides approximately \$14.6 billion in Proposition 98 resources, including General Fund and local property tax revenues.

PROPOSITION 98 SETTLE-UP

The enacted budget establishes a \$3.9 billion Proposition 98 settle-up obligation associated with prior-year funding requirements. The budget also establishes a mechanism under which a portion of specified General Fund tax revenues will be used to address outstanding Proposition 98 obligations, affecting the timing of future settle-up payments.

Statutory Reference: AB 126—K-12 budget trailer bill, Sec. 152

STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The enacted budget shifts specified state preschool program expenditures that were previously funded outside Proposition 98 into the Proposition 98 framework and adjusts the Proposition 98 guarantee accordingly. This change incorporates those costs into the constitutional funding guarantee and changes the calculation of available Proposition 98 resources for education programs.

TK-12 EDUCATION

The enacted budget incorporates the cost of transitional kindergarten into the calculation of the Proposition 98 funding available for the TK-12 and community college segments. This changes how transitional kindergarten expenditures are accounted for within the Proposition 98 framework and affects the resources remaining for each segment.

SPLIT PERCENTAGE

The enacted budget adjusts the Proposition 98 allocation between TK-12 education and community colleges from the traditional 89.07/10.93 percent split to 88.9/11.1 percent. This adjustment provides approximately \$217.7 million in additional ongoing Proposition 98 resources for community colleges and establishes a revised share of the constitutional guarantee beginning in 2026-27.

SCFF AND BASE RESOURCES

SCFF DEFERRALS

The enacted budget provides \$408.4 million to fully repay the remaining Student Centered Funding Formula deferral. The repayment restores previously delayed Proposition 98 resources to community college districts and eliminates the outstanding SCFF payment obligation identified in prior budgets.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 20

APPORTIONMENT DEFICIT

The enacted budget provides \$141 million in one-time Proposition 98 resources to address the community college system's 2025-26 SCFF shortfall. This funding reconciles the difference between the previously estimated and final funding amounts for the prior fiscal year.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 42

SCFF COLA

The enacted budget provides \$292 million in ongoing resources for a 2.87 percent cost-of-living adjustment to the Student Centered Funding Formula. The COLA is intended to increase ongoing apportionment resources consistent with the annual statutory adjustment provided for the community college system.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

DISCRETIONARY COLA/PAID PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE

The 2026 Budget Act (Assembly Bill 109, as amended), and including the subsequent higher education trailer bill, Senate Bill 135, has established a new statewide mandate for paid pregnancy disability leave, which was signed into law on July 13, 2026, by Governor Gavin Newsom.

For the California community college districts, this impact means beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year, of the amount appropriated in Schedule (1) of Item 6870-101-0001 of the annual Budget Act, the sum of one hundred and forty-six million four hundred and forty-one thousand dollars (\$146,441,000) shall be allocated to adjust apportionments calculated pursuant to Education Code Sections 84750.4 and 84750.5.

The Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) is the funding model used to allocate apportionment funding to community college districts.

A 2.87% statutory Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and an additional discretionary COLA of 1.44% were included in the 2026 Budget Act. The discretionary COLA was included to help offset the costs associated with the new paid pregnancy disability leave requirement.

For the purposes of the 2026-27 SCFF calculations, the full 4.31% COLA has been applied to the SCFF rates and Total Computational Revenue (TCR) Stability calculation. The 1.44% discretionary COLA has been incorporated into the Hold Harmless calculation. The discretionary COLA is not a separate allocation but is instead embedded within a district's general apportionment funding and remains unrestricted revenue. Districts retain local discretion over the expenditure of unrestricted funds, provided they comply with the statutory requirement to provide paid pregnancy disability leave.

For additional information about the calculation of the 2026–27 SCFF, please refer to the [2026–27 Advance Apportionment and 2025–26 Early Recalculation Memo FS 26-04](#). For more information about the SCFF, please visit the [Chancellor's Office SCFF](#) webpage.

Furthermore, a substantially similar measure: AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry, 2025-26): *School and Community College Employees: Paid Disability and Parental Leave* was ordered to an active file on August 17, 2026, and will not be moving forward.

Senate Bill 135

SB 135 is a measure that requires up to 14 weeks of full paid leave for a community college employee, pertaining to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, or related medical recovery, effective on January 01, 2027. However, the specific leave of absence length shall be determined by the employee and the employee's physician, up to the authorized maximum of 14 weeks.

Retirement Compensation

Compensation during the leave shall also include retirement fund contributions required by the community college district. Additionally, this measure requires that employees earn full-service credit during the referenced leave of absence and shall pay member contributions to the retirement fund.

Eligibility

Applicable to academic/certificated faculty and classified employees employed by the California community college districts, SB 135 requires that the governing board of a district provide a leave of absence from duty due to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from those conditions, compensated with full pay, subject up to 14 weeks.

Prohibiting Leave Credit Deductions

Additionally, SB 135 prohibits leave of absence deductions from any other compensated leave balances (i.e., sick leave, vacation leave, etc.) available to the employee, per state or federal regulations or laws.

Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave Commencement

The measure also authorizes that the paid pregnancy disability leave commences before and continues after childbirth, based on the aforementioned circumstances.

Preservation of Employee Health Care Coverage

A community college district will be required to maintain group health coverage for an employee who takes a pregnancy leave of absence for the duration, at the same level, and under similar conditions to coverage that would have been provided if the employee had not elected a leave of absence.

Prohibiting Restrictions on Eligibility

Further, as specified, SB 135 provides that there are no eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, minimum hours worked or length of service, before an employee is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or related medical conditions, in order to access a paid leave of absence under these provisions.

Employee Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave Allocations

As defined, for a part-time academic or classified employee, the amount of paid pregnancy leave per week, subject to a maximum of 14 weeks, is required to be calculated in accordance with the following: a) If the part-time employee works a fixed number of hours per week, the employee shall receive weekly pay for the total number of hours the employee is normally scheduled to work for the community college district, and b) except as provided, if the part-time employee does not work a fixed number of hours per week, the employee shall receive weekly pay in an amount equaling the employee's average weekly pay during the six-month period immediately preceding the date that the employee began their paid leave.

However, if the part-time employee has been employed for less than six months, the employee is required to receive weekly pay in an amount equaling the employee's average weekly pay during the entire period of that employment preceding the date that the employee began their paid leave. Additionally, this measure shall apply to community college districts that have adopted the merit system, as specified, and the paid pregnancy disability

leave does not diminish an employer's obligation to comply with a collective bargaining agreement that may provide greater disability or parental leave rights than those established by SB 135.

Concurrent Leaves & Employee Entitlements

Paid pregnancy disability leave, as defined, does not run concurrently with any other leaves statutorily. However, employee entitlements may include additional leave under the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), California Family Rights Act (CFRA), Pregnancy Disability Leave Act (PDLA), accrued sick leave, or extended illness leave.

Pregnancy Leave Types for Community College District Employees

Leave Type	Description	Job Protection or Wage Replacement?	Eligibility	Length of Leave	Pay
Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)	Federally job-protected leave for qualifying family and medical needs, including pregnancy and bonding with a new child.	Job Protection	Must have worked at least 1,250 hours in 12 months prior to leave, at a work location with 50+ employees	12 Weeks (runs concurrently with CFRA)	Unpaid Leave
California Family Rights Act (CFRA)	California job-protected leave for bonding with a new child or other qualifying family and medical reasons.	Job Protection	Must have worked for a covered employer with 5+ employees, have at least 12 months of total service, and have at least 1,250 hours of work in 12 months before taking the leave.	12 Weeks (runs concurrently with FMLA)	Unpaid Leave
Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave (established by SB 135- Higher Education Trailer Bill)	California job-protected and paid leave for eligible school and community college employees who are disabled due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from those conditions.	Job Protection & Wage Replacement	CA public school district, county offices of education, charter schools, educational joint powers authorities & CCC employers with 5+ employees	14 Weeks (does not run concurrently with other statutorily defined leave types)	Paid Leave

PAID PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Collective Bargaining Agreements

- Does the Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave override a current collective bargaining agreement if a greater benefit is provided.** Under Education Code Section 88193(g), the new leave requirements do not override a collective bargaining agreement if the agreement provides employees with greater disability or parental leave benefits than those required by the legislation.

Effective Start Date

2. **When does the new requirement to provide Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave take effect?** January 01, 2027.

Length of Service Requirement

3. **Is there a minimum length of service required for an employee to become eligible for Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave?** No. Legislation does not impose minimum service requirements for eligibility.

Eligible Individuals

4. **Who is eligible for a Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave?** Academic (certificated) and classified employees of California community college districts are eligible for up to 14 weeks of paid pregnancy disability leave due to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from these conditions. Eligibility is not limited to full-time employees; part-time employees are also covered.

Leave Commencement

5. **Are employees permitted to begin leave prior to childbirth?** Yes, leave may begin before childbirth if an employee's medical provider has certificated that they are disabled.

Job Protection

6. **Does Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave include job protection?** Yes. Paid pregnancy disability leave is a statutory leave entitlement.

Sick Leave Credits

7. **Is there a requirement for an employee to use all of their sick leave before eligibility for paid pregnancy disability leave starts?** No. Employers are prohibited under the Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave from requiring an employee to deduct any of their accrued sick leave.

Preserving Retirement Credits

8. **Will the paid pregnancy disability leave impact retirement benefits.** Yes. By keeping an employee's personal sick leave bank intact during pregnancy, those unused days remain available to be safely converted into service credit when an employee retires. A community college district will be required to maintain group health coverage for an employee who takes a pregnancy leave of absence for the duration, at the same level, and under similar conditions to coverage that would have been provided if the employee had not elected a leave of absence.

State: California Family Rights Act (CFRA) and Federal: The Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

9. **Are employees permitted to take CFRA baby-bonding leave and/or FMLA after the 14-week paid period?** Potentially, yes, if an employee meets the eligibility criteria of CFRA and the initial 14-week period.

New Policies and Procedures

10. **What documentation is required for California community college districts?** Districts should consult with their legal counsel to establish reasonable medical certification requirements and district practices consistent with all, as applicable.

Statutory Reference:

California Education Code Section 87766, effective July 13, 2026, requires the governing board of a community college district to provide a leave of absence from duty for any academic employee of the district who is required to be absent because of pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, and recovery, as specified. Additionally, the length of the leave of absence, including the date on which the leave shall commence and the date on which the employee shall resume duties, shall be determined by the employee and the employee's physician. This code repeals as of January 1, 2027, by its own provisions.

California Education Code Section 88193, effective July 13, 2026, expands paid pregnancy disability leave for classified employees of community college districts, as specified. Additionally, the governing board of any community college district may provide leave of absence from duty as it deems appropriate for any female employee who is required to be absent from her duties because of pregnancy or convalescence following childbirth, and may adopt rules and regulations, as defined, including, the time during pregnancy at which the leave of absence shall be taken, and the length of time for which the leave of absence shall continue after birth of the child. This code repeals as of January 1, 2027, by its own provisions.

CATEGORICALS COLA

The enacted budget provides \$31 million in ongoing funding for a 2.87 percent COLA for specified categorical programs. The funding increases ongoing resources for selected programs and aligns their annual cost-of-living adjustment with the COLA provided to community college apportionments.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

The enacted budget provides \$153.1 million in ongoing Proposition 98 resources to support 2.5 percent enrollment growth across the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fiscal years. This includes \$55.3 million for 1 percent growth in 2025-26 and \$97.8 million for 1.5 percent growth in 2026-27, providing additional apportionment resources based on funded enrollment growth.

Statutory Reference: SB 111—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001; SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 33

3-YEAR AVERAGE

The enacted budget provides \$47.7 million in ongoing resources to modify the SCFF methodology beginning in 2026-27. Under the change, credit FTES funding will be based on the higher of current-year actual enrollment or the three-year average, rather than relying solely on the three-year average.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 21

CALBRIGHT COLLEGE

The enacted budget provides \$38 million for Calbright College for two years to support its ongoing operations and transition from startup capacity. Trailer bill provisions also require the Chancellor’s Office to develop recommendations for incorporating competency-based education enrollment into FTES for funding purposes and to establish comparable data reporting and outcome measures to inform future funding decisions.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001; SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 14

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

The enacted budget provides \$120.7 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding for deferred maintenance at community colleges. The funding provides districts with additional resources to address accumulated facilities maintenance needs and preserve existing instructional and campus infrastructure.

Statutory Reference: SB 111—Budget Act of 2026, Sec. 147; SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 40

ACADEMIC AND CAREER PATHWAYS

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

The enacted budget provides \$35 million in one-time and \$2 million in ongoing Proposition 98 funding for the Credit for Prior Learning Initiative. The investment supports implementation of statewide credit for prior learning practices, including evaluation of prior learning as part of education planning and acceptance of transcribed prior learning credit across community college districts.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001; SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 16

COMMON CLOUD

The enacted budget provides \$36 million in one-time and \$5 million in ongoing funding to expand the Common Cloud Data Platform. The investment supports development of a more integrated statewide data infrastructure, including tools such as e-Transcripts and articulation resources, while providing access to timely data to support institutional decision-making and student transfer.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001; SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 13

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The enacted budget provides \$100 million in one-time funding on the K-12 side to expand grants for middle and early college high schools or programs, and College and Career Access Pathway dual enrollment partnerships, with additional funding available for programs serving justice-involved youth. The funding may support activities such as educator professional development and coordination with community colleges to expand dual enrollment access and student support.

Statutory Reference: AB 126—K-12 budget trailer bill, Sec. 148

CALIFORNIA EARLY COLLEGE DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE

The enacted budget provides \$10 million in one-time funding to establish the California Early College Demonstration Initiative as a regional pilot focused on implementing and scaling comprehensive dual enrollment and early college systems. The initiative emphasizes implementation support, systems alignment, and capacity building through partnerships between local educational agencies and community college districts, with priority for Kern, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Riverside counties.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 37

CALIFORNIA INDIAN NATIONS COLLEGE

The enacted budget provides \$42.6 million in one-time funding for California Indian Nations College, distributed at \$14.2 million annually over three years. The funding provides temporary state support for the college and its ongoing educational operations while establishing a defined three-year funding period.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-109-0001

CAL-BRIDGE

The enacted budget provides \$1.2 million in one-time funding for the Cal-Bridge First Academic Scholar Training Program. The investment supports this statewide intersegmental initiative intended to strengthen pathways between community colleges and four-year institutions.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 38

STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

STUDENT SUPPORT BLOCK GRANT

The enacted budget provides \$147.2 million in one-time funding for the Student Support Block Grant. The funding is allocated to districts through a formula based on college and student measures and may be used for basic needs, childcare, advising, legal services, mental health services, and employment assistance, allowing districts to align the resources with existing student support programs.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 35

LGBTQ+ CENTERS

The enacted budget provides \$30 million in one-time funding for LGBTQ+ Centers at community colleges. The funding expands one-time state support for campus-based services and resources serving LGBTQ+ students and supplements prior funding provided for the program.

Statutory Reference: SB 111—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001; SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 41

DREAMER RESOURCE LIAISONS

The enacted budget provides \$71.1 million in one-time Proposition 98 funding for Dreamer Resource Liaisons and related student support services. The funding includes a 3 percent set-aside for state administrative operations and technical assistance and supports services related to financial aid, academic opportunities, and career pathways for immigrant students.

Statutory Reference: AB 113—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATION

The enacted budget provides \$10 million to support community college financial aid administration. The investment supplements existing funding available for administering student financial aid programs and supports the system's capacity to implement and administer state and federal financial aid requirements.

Statutory Reference: AB 113—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

STUDENT EQUITY AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM COLA

The enacted budget provides \$30.1 million in ongoing funding for a 5.74 percent COLA for the Student Equity and Achievement Program. The adjustment increases ongoing resources available to districts to support the program and address inflationary and operational cost pressures.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

PIERCE COLLEGE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

The enacted budget provides \$5 million in one-time funding for Pierce College Family Resource Centers. The funding provides targeted state support for family resource center activities and related services at the college.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 39

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

The enacted budget provides \$3 million in one-time funding to Southwestern College for specified purposes, including pharmacy technician and transfer pathways. The allocation provides targeted support for workforce and transfer-related activities at the college.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

WORKFORCE AND CAREER PROGRAMS

RELATED AND SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

The enacted budget provides \$16 million in one-time funding to backfill Related and Supplemental Instruction funding for instruction hours provided during 2024-25 and 2025-26. The funding addresses prior-year RSI funding shortfalls and restores resources associated with apprenticeship-related instruction.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 36

ADULT LEARNER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The enacted budget provides \$9.7 million over three years for the Adult Learner Demonstration Project. The funding supports demonstration efforts focused on improving educational and workforce pathways for adult learners and testing approaches that can inform broader system implementation.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

FUTURE OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PILOT PROJECT

The enacted budget provides \$15 million in one-time funding for a five-year Future of Creative Industries Pilot Project. The initiative is focused on workforce adaptation in creative economy sectors, including efforts addressing potential job displacement and changing workforce needs associated with artificial intelligence.

Statutory Reference: SB 111—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

HEALTHY SCHOOL FOODS PATHWAY PROGRAM

The enacted budget provides \$14 million in ongoing funding for the California Healthy School Food Pathway Program and requires 80 percent of funding to support direct program costs. The funding transitions the program from prior one-time support to an ongoing state-funded workforce development program focused on preparing food service workers to provide healthy meals in K-12 settings.

Statutory Reference: AB 109—Budget Act of 2026, Item 6870-101-0001

MISCELLANEOUS POLICY CHANGES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Trailer bill language adds the Superintendent of Education to the Board of Governors as the 19th voting member. This statutory change expands the composition of the Board and establishes an additional voting member within the governance structure of the California Community Colleges.

Statutory Reference: AB 181— Education governance, Sec. 89

STUDENT HOUSING REPORTING CONSOLIDATION

Trailer bill language consolidates the reporting requirements for the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program and campus-owned housing and requires the reports to be issued together by February 1. The change aligns related student housing reporting requirements and establishes a single reporting timeline for the required information.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 2 and Sec. 3

NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS LEGISLATIVE REPORTING

Trailer bill language consolidates four existing legislative reports covering nursing enrollment growth and retention, nursing multicriteria screening, allied health multicriteria screening, and allied health program outcomes. The consolidated report is due December 31, 2026, and every three years thereafter, creating a single reporting structure and timeline for these requirements.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 17, Sec. 18, Sec. 19, and Sec. 28

TITLE IX ANNUAL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Trailer bill language clarifies that the Chancellor's designee may satisfy the statutory requirement to provide the annual Title IX budget public hearing presentation. The change provides additional administrative flexibility regarding who may deliver the required presentation while maintaining the existing reporting and public hearing requirement.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 5

CAL GRANT COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER ENTITLEMENT

Trailer bill language increases the maximum age for eligibility for the California Community College Transfer Entitlement from 28 to 30 for award years 2026-27 through 2030-31. The change temporarily expands the population of community college students who may qualify for the transfer entitlement award.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 9

FEDERAL WORKFORCE PELL GRANT PROGRAM

The enacted budget establishes a state process for determining whether short-term programs meet specified requirements to participate in the federal Workforce Pell Grant program. The California Student Aid Commission is responsible for eligibility determinations and related oversight, including data and reporting requirements needed to establish and maintain program eligibility.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 11

MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Trailer bill language prohibits scholarship displacement for current and former foster youth receiving a Middle Class Scholarship award. The provision limits the circumstances under which other institutional aid may be reduced because of the student's receipt of a Middle Class Scholarship award.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 12

AB 91 NONRESIDENT TUITION EXEMPTION

Trailer bill language requires community college governing boards participating in the AB 91 cross-border nonresident tuition exemption to jointly develop and implement a policy for administering a shared FTES exemption cap. The provision establishes a common administrative approach for managing the exemption across participating districts.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 15

PART-TIME FACULTY HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Trailer bill language expands the allowable benefits under the Part-Time Community College Faculty Health Insurance Program to include vision or dental benefits. The change provides districts participating in the program with additional flexibility in the types of health insurance benefits that may be offered to eligible part-time faculty.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 25

CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES REPATRIATION ACT

Trailer bill language makes technical and clarifying changes to the California Native American Graves Repatriation Act to align state requirements with applicable federal regulations. The revisions address statutory consistency and clarify implementation requirements governing the repatriation of human remains and cultural items.

Statutory Reference: SB 135—Higher education budget trailer bill, Sec. 30 and Sec. 31

DUAL ENROLLMENT POLICY CHANGES

Trailer bill language establishes a statewide definition of dual credit, allowing courses completed through dual enrollment partnerships to count toward both high school and postsecondary credit. It expands opportunities for community colleges to partner with

Regional Occupational Centers and Programs through College and Career Access Pathways agreements and Middle College High School programs. The changes also revise K-12 attendance requirements for students participating in dual enrollment.

Statutory Reference: AB 126—K-12 budget trailer bill, Sec. 87, Sec. 131, and Sec. 132.



CHANGES TO TITLE 5 REGULATIONS

2026 REGULATORY ACTIONS

California community college districts must comply with all regulations promulgated by the Board of Governors. To avoid regulatory non-compliance, community college districts must conform their local policies and procedures to Board regulations within one hundred and eighty (180) days after the regulation's effective date and incorporate any necessary changes into the district's catalog and class schedules "at the first available opportunity." (5 Cal. Code Regs. § 52010.)

The complete set of Board regulations governing the California Community Colleges are contained in Title 5, Division 6, of the California Code of Regulations, which is available at the Office of Administrative Law ([OAL Westlaw Page](#)).

Information about pending and recently adopted Board of Governors regulatory actions is available on the Chancellor's Office Pending Regulatory Actions ([OGC Regulatory Page](#)).

The Board of Governors adopted a number of regulatory actions that became effective in 2026. They are described briefly below.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS NOTICE & PAUSE AND ACADEMIC RENEWAL

This regulatory action amended sections 55031, 55032, 55033 and 55034 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations to change existing naming conventions for academic "probation" and "dismissal" to "notice" and "pause" respectively. In addition, this regulatory action made conforming changes to Sections 51018, 55022, 55024, 55510, 55521, 55523, 55525, 56404, 58106, 58108, 58621 and 58732 updating the terminology of the new naming conventions.

Board of Governors Approval Date: November 18, 2025

Effective Date: April 17, 2026

A copy of the regulations can be found here: [Academic Progress Notice & Pause and Academic Renewal](#)

AWARDING CREDIT FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND OTHER EXTERNAL STANDARDIZED EXAMINATIONS

This regulatory action amended Sections 55052 and 55052.5 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations to update and consolidate policies governing the awarding of credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College-Level Examination Program, and other external standardized examinations. These amendments aligned the regulations with the statutory requirement under Education Code Section 79500 that one statewide standard be adopted for granting students credit for passing Advanced Placement examinations. The amendments also provided districts' more discretion to grant credit for additional external standardized examinations as determined locally. Finally, these changes further clarified pre-existing faculty and curriculum committee responsibilities and continued to mandate clear transcript notation of credit earned by such examinations.

Board of Governors Approval Date: March 24, 2026

Effective Date: September 9, 2026

A copy of the regulations can be found here: [Awarding Credit for Advanced Placement and other External Standardized Exams](#)

ASSOCIATE DEGREE COURSE REQUIREMENTS, CLIMATE

This regulatory action amended section 55061 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations to align systemwide efforts in teaching and learning regarding climate action and environmental impact. Section 55061 was amended to include "environmental science" as amongst the disciplines whose courses qualify as natural science courses for associate degree purposes. Lastly, this regulatory action added language indicating that natural science courses should address the effects of human activities on climate and the environment as appropriate and as determined by the applicable local process.

Board of Governors Approval Date: May 19, 2026

Effective Date: September 9, 2026

A copy of the regulations can be found here: [Associate Degree Course Requirements, Climate](#)

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING & HIGH SCHOOL COURSE ARTICULATION

This regulatory action amended Sections 55050 and 55051 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. Section 55050 clarified community college districts' responsibilities in adopting Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) policies, provided districts the option to count CPL toward credit in residence for the associate degree, and reorganized the subdivisions for greater clarity. Revisions to Section 55051 included: a retitling of the section and revising

the operative definition to clarify that high school courses accepted for credit must be articulated through agreements between institutions and approved by the relevant faculty at the community college; updating cross-references and removing references to previously-repealed sections; and clarifying how credit earned through high school course articulation should be noted on a student's academic record.

Board of Governors Approval Date: January 13, 2026

Effective Date: September 9, 2026

A copy of the regulations can be found here: [CPL & High School Course Articulation](#)

ACADEMIC RENEWAL

This regulatory action amended Sections 55000 and 55046 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations to standardize academic renewal eligibility criteria across the California Community College system, promoting equitable access to academic renewal for all students.

Board of Governors Approval Date: May 19, 2026

Effective Date: September 16, 2026

A copy of the regulations can be found here: [Academic Renewal](#)

CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION REFERENCE REMOVAL

This regulatory action amended Section 55181 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations to remove particular references to the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) to account for its defunding and closure in 2011. References to CPEC approval had remained in the Chancellor's Office regulations, which had led to confusion regarding the proper approving authority for Educational Centers. Given that CPEC had not been revived in 15 years, it was deemed necessary to remove outdated references in this regulation to address any residual confusion they may cause regarding the process community college districts must follow in seeking approval of new educational centers.

Board of Governors Approval Date: September 15, 2026

Effective Date: November 4, 2026.

A copy of the regulations can be found here: [CA Postsecondary Education Commission Reference Removal](#)

DISTANCE EDUCATION

This regulatory action updated distance education content in Sections 55200, 55204, and 55210 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. The amendments provided notice to the California Community College system that the definitions governing distance education modalities are to be found in the Program and Course Approval Handbook; aligned the definition of "distance education" with the recently adopted federal definition; removed the minimum threshold of distance education instruction (51 percent of course sessions) for a

course section to qualify as a distance education course; and repealed the requirement that colleges report distance education outcomes annually to their local governing boards.

Board of Governors Approval Date: July 21, 2026

Effective Date: November 7, 2026.

A copy of the regulations can be found here: [Distance Education](#)

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