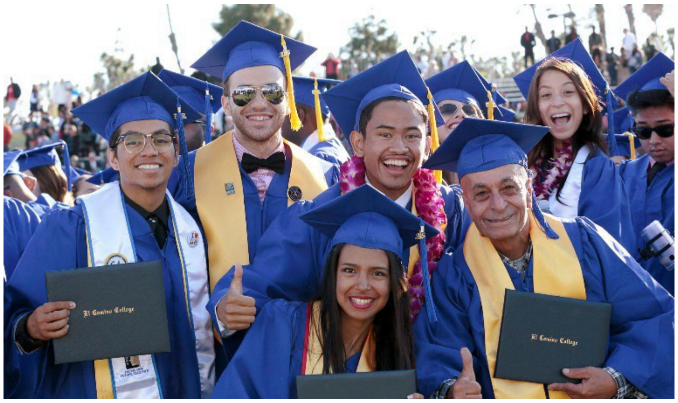
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

2022-23 STATE BUDGET & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

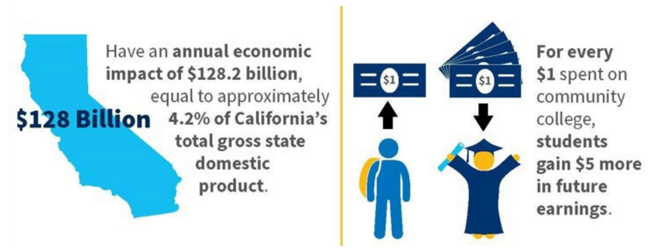


The California Community Colleges serve over 1.8 million students every year at 116 colleges in rural, urban and suburban communities throughout California. Our community colleges serve as the primary entry point for transfer students. Over 50% of California State University and nearly 30% of University of California bachelor degree earners started at a community college. Community colleges are the backbone of higher education. As engines of social and economic opportunity, they support students seeking to build foundational skills, gain career-related skills to enter or advance in their careers, earn a degree, or transfer to a four-year university.

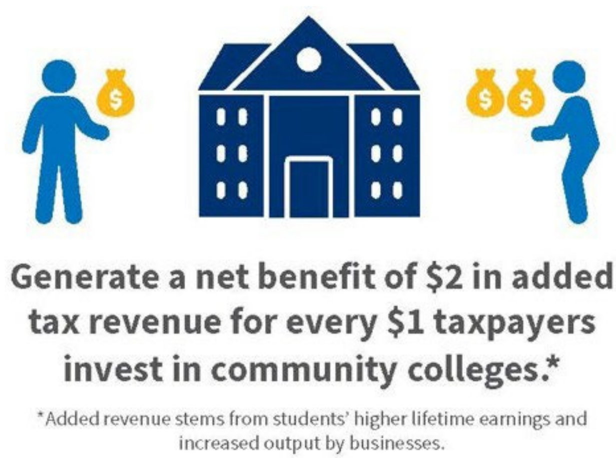
California's community colleges have led the way in providing a low-cost pathway into our higher education systems. As affordable and versatile institutions, community colleges provide the best pathway for Americans to obtain the education and skills they need to obtain a high-quality job that pays family-sustaining wages. The 2022 California Community Colleges State Policy platform articulates an agenda that puts students' needs first and invests in our colleges to innovate and scale student enrollment and retention strategies. By providing strategic budget investments and enacting student-focused policy changes, California lawmakers have an opportunity to strengthen the mission of the California Community Colleges, close racial equity gaps, and support student economic mobility.

Key Facts

- As the largest higher education system and provider of workforce training in the nation, the California Community Colleges generate $128.2 billion annually in added income for the state's economy.
- For every $1 spent on community college, students will gain $5 more in future earnings.



- Students with an associate degree will, on average, increase their income by $11,100 annually compared to individuals with a high school diploma.
- These economic benefits demonstrate the value of the California Community Colleges in ensuring an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. For every $1 invested in our system, we create $2 in added tax revenue.



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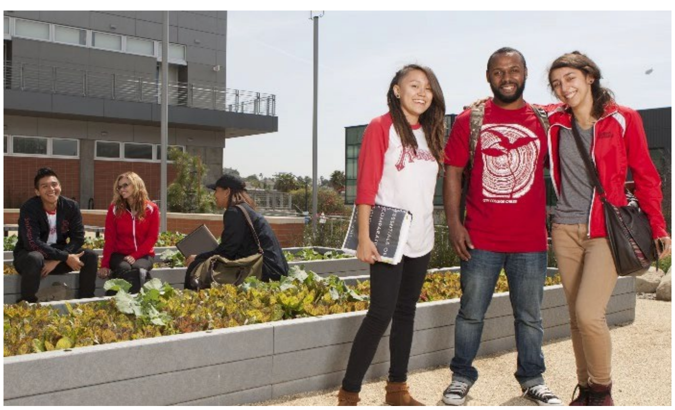
BUDGET PRIORITIES

Roadmap to California's Future

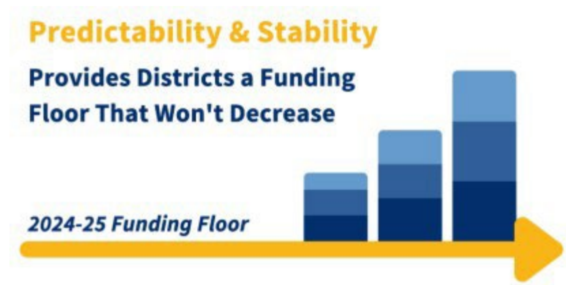
The Governor's proposed Roadmap for California Community Colleges sets forth a bold vision of higher education as a lever for economic opportunity and closing equity gaps in California. The Roadmap aligns to the *Visions for Success* and will position the California Community Colleges to help drive the goal of achieving 70% postsecondary degree and certificate attainment among working-age Californians by 2030. To fulfill this laudable goal, especially as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Community Colleges will need targeted and ongoing resources to support:

- Streamlined academic pathways & funding capacity
- Student retention and enrollment
- Black student success
- Expansion of foster youth support
- Equitable faculty hiring and health insurance benefits
- Modernization of technology infrastructure & security
- Deferred maintenance projects
- The pay down of pension liabilities
- Affordable student housing



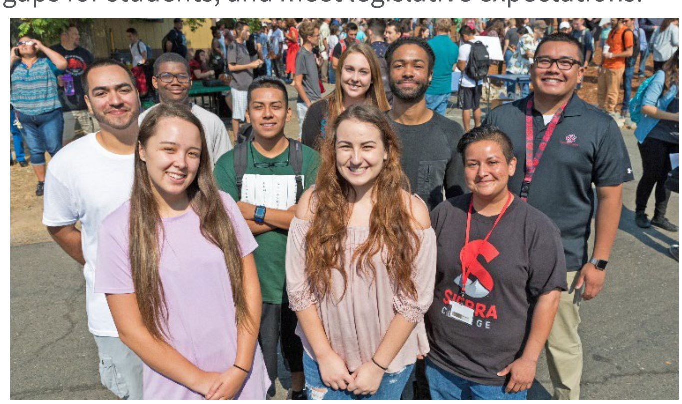
Access, Equity, and Success

We support the Governor's proposal to set the 2024-25 fiscal year as the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) funding floor. To further strengthen equitable per-student funding, we request an augmentation of $300 million to the SCFF Basic Allocation in the form of a Tech Basic to support operations, long-term technology-supported learning, and enhanced student supports. The SCFF incentivizes colleges to connect budgets to a student's journey – from access to success. A 2024-25 funding floor and Basic Allocation augmentation will provide districts greater stability and predictability as they advance access, equity, and success by integrating strategies that relentlessly focus on students' end goals.



System Capacity

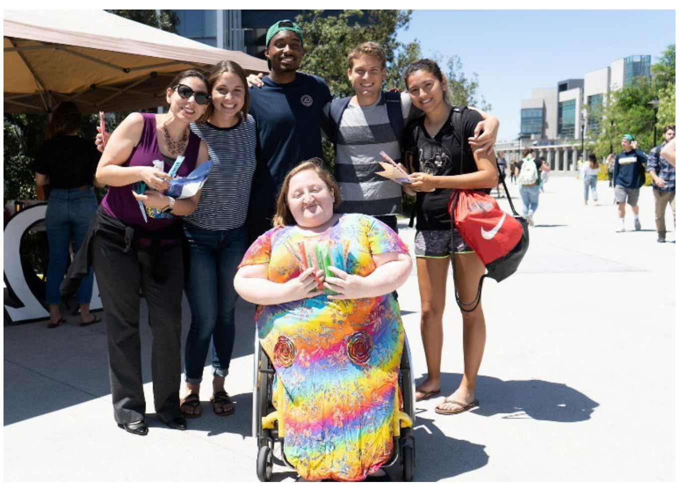
Since 2014, the number of programs overseen by the Chancellor's Office has doubled from 59 to 105, yet the number of positions has grown by less than 20%. To ensure California's community colleges and the Chancellor's Office have the essential resources to continue advancing the goals of the Governor's proposed Roadmap, we urge your support for several key funding proposals in the Governor's Budget. These include one- time investments to implement common course numbering andreforms to the transfer process, and additional implementation capacity positions for the Chancellor's Office to support broader policy reforms on student supports and academic pathways. These critical resources will ensure that California's community colleges and the Chancellor's Office can continue working to break down barriers, close equity gaps for students, and meet legislative expectations.



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Total Cost of Success

While policymakers have made significant investments in California's financial aid system in recent years, many students who arrive at California's community colleges live below the poverty line and some struggle with exceptional challenges like homelessness, mental illness, and food insecurity. Addressing the total cost of success will require simplified financial aid and student support systems that are easy to access, address students' basic needs, and financial awards that grow over time to ensure they maintain purchasing power. **AB 1746** (Medina) would streamline the various existing Cal Grant entitlement programs into streamlined Cal Grant 2 and Cal Grant 4 programs, allowing over 120,000 additional community college students to qualify, including large numbers of Latinx and African American students. This bill also includes an automatic inflationary adjustment to the Cal Grant 2 award amount that is tied to the Consumer Price Index and aligns income eligibility thresholds with federal financial aid eligibility.



Equitable Placement and Enrollment

The passage of **AB 705** (Irwin) in 2017 resulted in a transformational shift in how community colleges assessed and placed students in courses by requiring colleges to maximize the probability that a student would enter and complete transfer-level courses in English and math within a one-year timeframe. For those students who seek to transfer or whose program requires the completion of transfer level coursework, access to these gateway courses is critically important. While significant progress has been made, implementation across our campuses is uneven and equity gaps persist. **AB 1705** (Irwin) aims to strengthen state and local practices that fulfill the promise of **AB 705**. This includes making clear campus efforts to utilize data and research to inform placement practices and careful efforts to reduce time to degree. These changes are necessary to ensure that more students have the opportunity to access transfer-level coursework, thereby increasing their chances of completing their educational goals.

Undocumented Students

In the 20 years since its passage, **AB 540** (Firebaugh, 2001) has successfully expanded opportunities for a college education and reduced opportunity gaps among the thousands of undocumented students attending a community college. However, more work is needed to strengthen this framework and ensure additional California undocumented students qualify for the nonresident tuition exemption in a timely manner. **SB 1141** (Limón), sponsored by the Chancellor's Office, aims to eliminate the two-year cap on full-time enrollment in credit courses that can be counted towards achieving **AB 540** status. To ensure consistency with transfer requirements, **SB 1141** also changes the threshold to qualify for **AB 540** from three years to two. This will further limit financial barriers to higher education for undocumented students.

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