



March 13, 2023

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TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Information Systems Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Business Officers

FROM: Valerie Lundy-Wagner, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Digital Innovation and Infrastructure

RE: System-Funded Technology Resources

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) supports a variety of educational and other supporting technologies that complement local faculty and staff efforts to ensure a high-quality educational experience for all students, regardless of their preferred learning modality.

The purpose of this memo is to provide a more comprehensive update on system-funded technologies that include student- and faculty-facing tools, as well as the backend information technology (IT) systems and services, including those related to accessibility and security. These and other technology tools and services are supported primarily, but not exclusively, through grant agreements with districts that facilitate the use of various Proposition 98 funding streams. This memo also describes information about the ongoing analysis of technology resources supported at the system level, specifically around accessibility, adoption, and utilization. Preliminary information about what will be funded in FY2023-24 and the 2023-24 Systemwide Technology Access Collaborative (STAC) purchasing window are also included.

SYSTEM-SUPPORTED TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

To maximize state funding opportunities for technology investment, the Chancellor’s Office has multiple vehicles designed to reduce the local burden of technology contract negotiation and procurement as well as increase the availability of tools and resources. This section describes partnerships facilitating various system-funded licenses, subscriptions, and technology services.

CCC Technology Center (Tech Center)

The Tech Center, supported by multiple grants to the Butte-Glenn Community College District (BGCCD), hosts multiple information systems and services for local and system operations, like CCCApply and an electronic transcript platform. Systemwide licenses and subscriptions held by the Tech Center in FY2022-23 and anticipated in FY2023-24 are summarized below:

Supplier/Vendor	Service Area
Career Coach	Career Exploration
CCC Document Converter	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
Equidox	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
InCommon Federation (unlimited SSL Certificates)	Information Security
Library Database Subscription Services (EBSCO)	Library Services

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Supplier/Vendor	Service Area
Nessus Manager	Information Security
Pope Tech Instructor Accessibility Guide	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
Pope Tech Web Accessibility Scanning Tool	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
Shibboleth IdP	Information Security
Shire Caption Editing	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
Splunk Logging	Information Security
Tenable	Information Security

The Tech Center’s Enabling Services Unit provides a single point of contact to each college for technology adoption and implementation. For more information about the tools listed here (or others supported by the Tech Center), please contact your College Relationship Manager or email crms@cctechcenter.org.

TechConnect, currently a sub-award of BGCCD at Palomar Community College District, hosts the systemwide contract for Zoom, 3CMedia Video Streaming and Publishing, as well Tech Connect Cloud for media storage and sharing. For information about Tech Connect, Zoom, or 3CMedia, please see the TechConnect [webpage \(http://www.cctechconnect.org/\)](http://www.cctechconnect.org/) or reach out to support@cctechconnect.org.

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Finally, College of the Canyons currently holds a grant for Distance Education Captioning and Transcription (DECT), which assists CCCs seeking live and offline captioning and transcription services for distance education and hybrid courses. The grant is intended to help CCCs improve their capacity to serve disabled student populations and to ensure the accessibility of aural information used in the delivery of distance education. For more information about DECT, please visit the [webpage](#) (<https://www.canyons.edu/academics/schools/learningresources/captioning/index.php>) or contact captioning@canyons.edu.

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CollegeBuys Program

The CollegeBuys Program was established at the Foundation for California Community Colleges to serve as the systemwide procurement and contracting hub, leveraging the CCC's economies of scale to develop compliant strategic sourcing agreements that result in cost savings, standardization of terms, risk mitigation and source optimization for various commodities and service including, but not limited to, software and technology products. Local staff should be familiar with the systemwide institutional contracts provided by CollegeBuys that are available at their [website \(https://purchasing.collegebuys.org/\)](https://purchasing.collegebuys.org/).

The CollegeBuys-negotiated contract with Microsoft is key to the current systemwide information security efforts. As noted in the "September 2022 Cybersecurity Strategy Updates" memo ([DII 22-300-04](#)), the Microsoft A5 Security Suite was initially funded in FY2022-23 to help reduce local risk profiles by providing free access to basic security controls. The Chancellor's Office anticipates funding this license in an ongoing fashion as part of the systemwide security strategy. System-funded implementation support for the A5 Security Suite this year will ensure "high-need" districts implement by the end of the 2023 calendar year (as noted in "FY22-23 January IT Infrastructure and Cybersecurity Funding" memo, [DII 22-300-06](#)), or January 14, 2024 so districts can take advantage of winter closures. Districts identified as having moderate- and low-need in the aforementioned memo are also expected to implement the A5 Security Suite on the same timeline and can take advantage of the pre-negotiated implementation package pricing. More information on the process for signing up for the pre-negotiated packages and payment is forthcoming.

Based on the feedback gathered from CISOs and their association, the Chancellor's Office is also exploring a systemwide subscription for Microsoft Defender for Servers and for student and lab devices within the CollegeBuys contract to start in FY2023. This would further enhance local

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security postures against cyberattacks to improve the systemwide security profile. Details are being finalized, and districts will be notified about updates as they emerge.

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California Virtual Campus (CVC) and Systemwide Technology Access Collaborative (STAC)

The California Virtual Campus (CVC) grant, held by the Foothill DeAnza Community College District, currently provides operational support for the systemwide licenses to the Canvas Learning Management System (Canvas) and add-on, Canvas Studio, which helps faculty to embed opportunities for engagement using multimedia in online modalities. Both will continue to be funded at the system-level, with the CVC team continuing to facilitate committees designed to ensure local needs are identified and used to inform vendor management and product enhancements. The Chancellor’s Office anticipates funding Canvas Studio in an ongoing fashion, and contract negotiations should be finalized soon.

Since 2021, the CVC team has collaborated with the Chancellor’s Office (Division of Digital Innovation and Infrastructure and Office of Equitable Student Learning, Experience and Impact) and CollegeBuys to ensure technology tools are available to support virtual classrooms and support services. This collaboration, better known as the STAC, centralizes local orders of online teaching, learning, and student support tools with discounted pricing through aggregate procurement during a specified buying window. Products available for preferred pricing through STAC’s 2023-24 purchasing window (open from March to June 2023) are listed below:

Supplier	Service Area
Anthology (Ally Blackboard)	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
ConexED	Student Services Management Platform
EesySoft	EdTech Adoption Platform
Labster	Virtual Science Labs Platform

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Supplier	Service Area
Name Coach	Name Pronunciation, Gender Identification & Virtual Commencement Platform
NetTutor (Link-Systems)	Online Tutoring Services
Pronto	Online Student Engagement Platform
Turnitin	Academic Integrity Platform

For the most up to date STAC information, please visit the [website](https://foundationccc.org/CollegeBuys/Systemwide-Technology-Access) (<https://foundationccc.org/CollegeBuys/Systemwide-Technology-Access>). The CVC team also provides implementation services and support for the Canvas ecosystem (as well as the Course Exchange). For more information about CVC managed implementation services and support, please contact support@cvc.edu.

Of note, tools within STAC should not be assumed accessible under the Federal Section 508 standards. The Accessibility Center, hosted at the BGCCD, should be considered a key resource for local staff working to comply with Federal Sections 504 and 508. For more information about systemwide accessibility-related services and supports, please review the Accessibility Center [webpage](https://cccaccessibility.org/) (<https://cccaccessibility.org/>) or contact accessibility@ccctechcenter.org.

Optimizing State Funds for Digital Equity

The *Vision for Success* remains a critical underpinning of the Chancellor’s Office work. In 2022, the Chancellor’s Office began reviewing all system-funded technology products, tools, and resources to maximize state funding and ensure alignment with the *Vision*. Of note is the extent to which system-funded tools: 1) are widely adopted and utilized, 2) are set up for data collection and

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management that informs local and system-wide research on impacts to student success, and 3) meet appropriate standards for accessibility. To address these issues, the Chancellor's Office is engaged in a three-pronged strategy that facilitates data-based decision-making and digital equity.

First, starting in spring 2023, the Chancellor's Office, in partnership with the Tech Center, Tech Connect, and/or CVC teams, will begin to contact districts using system-funded technology resources that have low adoption. This will help ensure that systemwide contracts are set up to help optimize use and state funding. For example, the Chancellor's Office is collaborating with the Chief Information System Officer Association (CISOA) leadership to better understand the extent to which the security-related contracts meet local *operational* needs that facilitate best use of the service and/or technology.

Second, with the same partners, the Chancellor's Office will review data provided to colleges and districts about system-funded technology resources to ensure tools contribute to meaningful analysis of student success outcomes. Finally, since spring 2022, the Chancellor's Office has begun piloting the Systemwide Technology Evaluation Process (STEPS) to ensure accessibility standards are appropriately met. Selection of system-supported products through CollegeBuys, STAC, and other efforts will eventually be aligned with the Chancellor's Office STEPS.

Braiding Funds for Technology Access and Success

In partnership with stakeholders, the Chancellor's Office will continue to advocate for system and local investments that support a robust and equitable technology ecosystem for online and hybrid education delivery. However, the expiration of short-term pandemic funding and the current economic forecast may challenge our collective work to support students.

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Funding available through the 2022-23 budget includes multiple sources that can support local technology infrastructure:

- An ongoing \$200 million increase to the Student-Centered Funding Formula base allocation in recognition of increased costs due to shifts in student learning modality,
- A \$650 million one-time funding to establish the California Community College COVID-19 Recovery Block Grant, which can be utilized for, among other things, technology, and software.
- Ongoing and one-time funds from AB 178 and AB 183 that pertain to IT infrastructure and security (distributed so far in fall 2022 and spring 2023).

In addition, colleges can also use funding from Proposition 20 lottery apportionment, their general apportionment, Student Equity and Achievement Program, Guided Pathways, and other applicable categorical and grant funds to support local technology work. For more information about various funding streams and spending timelines, please review the [FY2022-23 CCC Compendium of Allocations and Resources](#) the most recent version from February 2023 can be found [here](#).

While much of the federal pandemic-era funding has expired, please note that the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) continues to provide \$30/month to eligible households to help cover the cost of internet. All Pell-eligible students are automatically eligible for ACP, and the Chancellor's Office anticipates more students could also benefit from this support. More information and the application can be found at the following [website](#): <https://www.internetforallnow.org/>.

The Chancellor's Office will continue to explore ways to maximize our collective efforts to ensure students have equitable access to and effective delivery of virtual instruction and services. Efforts to review system-supported tools and services, as well as the structures used to provide them will

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also continue so as to inform ongoing system-level efforts to reduce the local burden for staff seeking to secure and implement needed technology resources.

Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact me at vlundywagner@cccco.edu or 916-322-1928.

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