



## ACCCA Position on the 2021-22 State Budget

The Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) takes an active role in the development and advocacy of the State Budget, public policy, and legislation for the benefit of the California Community College system, our students, and the system's administrative leadership.

We appreciate Governor Gavin Newsom's re-investment in the education of California's students after the financial constraints of the 2020-21 State Budget.

### Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee and California Community College Allocation

ACCCA calls on the state to provide funds in a manner that builds excellence in public postsecondary education and supports the *core mission* of the California Community Colleges as defined in California's Master Plan for Higher Education. Proposition 98 was established in the State Constitution by voters to set a *minimum* funding level for California's public schools. ACCCA supports full funding obligated under Proposition 98 without manipulation.

ACCCA's highest priority for allocation of Proposition 98 funds is full funding of the community college portion of the guarantee. We appreciate and support Governor Newsom's proposal to provide CCCs with their historical 10.93% portion of Proposition 98.

### Student Centered Funding Formula—COLA

ACCCA holds steadfast to the principle that local control is fundamental to establishing and operating sound programs for students. Because districts are accountable to their local community, they must have the agility to meet local needs. Providing funds to districts in the most flexible way possible and as ongoing resources is a top priority of ACCCA.

ACCCA believes that the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) should receive the same compounded COLA as proposed for the K-12 funding formula. Both systems experienced flat funding in the current year and should be made whole through this catch up mechanism of a 3.84% COLA.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned by the Administration's precedent-setting requirements imposed upon the system to receive the statutory COLA. As proposed by the Administration, certain policies must be adopted in order to receive the COLA. We believe that COLAs should not be conditional as an accountability measure and we request the Legislature reject tying a COLA to policy proposals.

### Use One-Time State Funding to Eliminate All Deferrals

Districts are struggling to fund current core programs with cash flow issues created by current-year deferrals. ACCCA requests that the Governor and Legislature eliminate all deferrals before new or

expanded one-time initiatives are created. The state should maximize the use of federal funds for one-time programs to address the current pandemic such as student emergency grants.

### **Improve Education Technology and Infrastructure**

While ACCCA appreciates the proposed \$10.6 million ongoing investment into education technology, a need that preceded the pandemic and will remain when most courses return to campus, our system-wide technology needs have historically been significantly underfunded. Substantial system-level fiscal support is needed to address an aging technological infrastructure and achieve economies of scale. Moreover, ACCCA strongly supports efforts to expand broadband access, close the digital divide for students in underserved communities, and provide support for student access to state-of-the-art technology.

### **Ongoing Funding to Sustain Basic Needs Programs**

The basic needs of our students are well known and were growing even before the pandemic struck. Over the past four years, the state has funded multiple basic needs initiatives at the colleges, each primarily on a one-time basis. Despite the one-time funding structure, basic needs programs have ongoing operational costs. Therefore, ACCCA requests ongoing support for sustaining colleges' basic needs student services.

### **Pension Rate Relief**

All districts are experiencing increasing costs for the continuing operation of their colleges. California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) employer contribution rates, step and column increases, health and welfare benefits cost increases, and even utility costs are all increasing. With a minimal COLA and many colleges facing declining attendance, help is needed.

In 2019–20, ACCCA fully supported the Governor's proposal to provide \$3 billion in non-Proposition 98 funds to relieve a portion of the CalSTRS and CalPERS employer rate contribution increases and provide an infusion of funds directly to the employer portion of the unfunded liabilities. To the extent more non-Proposition 98 resources can be provided to alleviate these employer contribution rate increases, we would support the additional relief.

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