

ACCCA Legislative Platform

Revised January, 2022

Since its founding in 1975, ACCCA has always taken an active role in the development and advocacy of public policy and legislation for the benefit of the California community college system and its administrative leadership. In this current time of uncertainty and adaptation, those efforts are even more essential to best represent the interests of our members.

Core Values of the Association

- *Honesty, integrity and professionalism in leadership*
- *Ethical and effective advocacy*
- *Dedication to service and commitment to quality in support of access and excellence*
- *Building synergy and camaraderie through trust, teamwork and commitment*
- *The uniqueness, diversity and creativity of all ACCCA members within the college community*
- *Leadership excellence and promoting continuous professional development for all members*

Core Legislative Priorities

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As an organization with an incredibly vibrant and diverse membership, ACCCA is committed to social justice through equity-minded practices, transformative leadership, and community engagement, and we support the Chancellor's call to action for racial justice. We believe this commitment is essential to enhancing our community to best serve the diverse students on each campus of the California Community College system.

ACCCA supports proactive efforts to identify and remove structural barriers to equity within our system, investing in equity-minded policies, practices, and resources to foster a culture where all people can fully participate in their higher education.

Local Autonomy

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 flexibility and agility to meet local needs. ACCCA opposes legislation that would impair or infringe upon the authority of community college districts (CCDs) or interfere with the ability of a CCD's staff to carry out the objectives established by their local Board.

Additionally, ACCCA opposes any expansion of the scope of collective bargaining, except where it would facilitate effective management. We support local efforts to reduce the adversarial

nature of employee relations, and promote collegiality and partnerships between management and all employees.

Current Expense of Education

The “current expense of education” provision in the Education Code, commonly referred to as the 50% law, has been in existence since the 1920s. While the delivery of education has changed remarkably over this near century, this law has not kept pace with these changes adding to the structural underfunding of college operations.

ACCCA supports modernization of the education code that acknowledges the critical support services provided outside of the classroom that are essential to today's students, such as counselors, librarians, academic advisors, financial aid advisors, information technology professionals, health care staff, and orientation leaders. This modernization is more important than ever if colleges are to survive the ongoing fiscal impacts of the pandemic, and to align current law with the SCFF and the Vision for Success.

Developing and Sustaining Leaders

The future of California’s community college system depends upon the quality of its leadership. ACCCA’s core mission is building and sustaining a robust pool of leaders for the community college system. Community college administration is a public service that provides quality support to ensure student success.

Much has been demanded of administrators throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Recruitment, retention and robust and sustainable professional learning opportunities require long-term commitments from the state Legislature to develop and support strategic initiatives that will address the changing nature of education leadership.

Retirement Security

Retirement issues are of fundamental importance to both active and retired ACCCA members. By Executive Order, retirees have been granted more post-retirement earning opportunities in order to address COVID-19-related staffing shortages. ACCCA supports parity in post-retirement earnings opportunities between CalSTRS and CalPERS members, and the extension of these temporary flexibilities throughout the duration of the K-14 staffing shortage.

At the federal level, ACCCA supports the elimination of the windfall elimination provision and the government pension offset that impose penalties on Social Security earnings for educators in the CalSTRS system.

Fees and Education Costs

California's community college fees are the least expensive in the nation; however, the full cost can add up. The role of California's community colleges as a conduit for meeting students' basic needs has evolved over time and it warrants a clear statement of purpose within the mission of the system.

ACCCA supports legislative proposals that help both full-time and part-time students to better afford college and successfully achieve their educational goals in a cost- and time-efficient manner. As more financial aid resources are offered to students, financial literacy must be viewed as a key component of student success.

At the federal level, ACCCA supports a tuition-free community college program that recognizes California's unique tuition and funding structure and rewards the state's current investment in higher education.

Finance and Funding Priorities

ACCCA calls on state government to provide funds in a manner that builds excellence in public postsecondary education and recognizes the true cost of educating students. 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 and opposes legislation that would limit local control in making spending decisions that are best for the unique circumstances of local communities.

ACCCA's highest priority for allocation of Proposition 98 funds is full funding of the community college portion [11%]; ensuring the Student Centered Funding Formula [SCFF] is fully funded; providing adjustments for inflation, enrollment access growth, and increasing base costs; and guaranteed revenue backfills to provide certainty in budgeting.

We recognize the future effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state's finances and student population remains unknown. ACCCA supports a soft landing for those districts that have experienced significant enrollment—and funding—declines as a result.

Campus Health, Wellness, and Safety

In this era of the pandemic, ACCCA holds fast to its belief that every student and every employee must be provided a safe work and educational environment that is conducive to human growth and development. ACCCA supports, and will fight for sufficient resources to assure a safe environment and that will support the physical, social and emotional needs of students and employees.

Ensuring a State-of-the-Art Learning Environment

ACCCA calls on the state to continue its commitment to provide financial support for California's community college facilities. Additionally, to increase the ability for local fundraising, ACCCA

supports legislation for a majority vote approval of local bonds and encourages a discussion to identify alternative funding sources for community college facilities.

ACCCA also supports a significant ongoing investment in the total cost of technology, including; hardware, software, infrastructure and sufficient staffing to provide support to college employees and students. With the recent transition to remote instruction, a digital divide has become increasingly evident, and many of our students lack basic technology and fast, reliable access to the internet that is critical to student success. This must be addressed in a real way.

One-time initiatives for technology and broadband access are not sufficient to eliminate the equity issues that have become more apparent with our underserved students. In addition, in light of recent ransomware attacks and financial aid scams, statewide funding should be designated for cybersecurity to provide cutting edge, centralized technology expertise to protect District and student data and resources in order to minimize liability and the related costs and loss of operations.

Finally, including the cost of technology as an educational expense within the current expense of education calculation recognizes that delivering education in the 21st Century has progressed beyond the chalkboard of the 1950s to a level of sophistication that should be acknowledged through priority funding.