



ACCCA Legislative Platform Addendum 2025 Budget Priority Issues

As a supplement to the Association of California Community College Administrators' (ACCCA) legislative platform, this addendum highlights ACCCA's priorities specific to key legislative and budget issues for 2025.

Honor the Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee

Governor Gavin Newsom proposes to appropriate the 2024-25 (current budget year) Proposition 98 minimum guarantee at \$117.6 billion, or \$1.6 billion lower than the revised estimated level of \$119.2 billion. By proposing to allocate \$1.6 billion less than the minimum guarantee, K-14 districts will have less funding to support their students and staff. Proposition 98 was established in the California 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. Conversely, ACCCA opposes and urges the Legislature to reject any proposal to fund below the constitutionally required minimum guarantee for K-14 education.

Fully Fund the COLA for the SCFF and Categorical Programs

ACCCA is supportive of Governor Newsom's proposal to apply the estimated 2.43% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). An annual COLA is essential for our colleges to keep pace with rising labor and programmatic costs that have been exacerbated by inflation, and we appreciate that the state recognizes the importance of providing the SCFF with the statutory COLA.

While we support the Governor proposing a COLA for some categorical programs, we request that the Legislature approve a State Budget that also applies the statutory COLA for basic needs centers, mental health services, rapid rehousing, NextUp, MESA, Puente, veterans resource centers, Umoja, and financial aid administration. ACCCA respectfully requests that all categorical programs, not just a select few, receive the statutory COLA as all programs are facing increasing operational costs.

Fund Enrollment Growth

Governor Newsom proposes to provide \$30.4 million ongoing to fund 0.50% enrollment growth for the system.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, community colleges have made significant strides in increasing enrollment. According to the Chancellor's Office, fall 2023 saw an 8.0% growth in student enrollment relative to fall 2022, and spring 2024 saw a 9.0% growth relative to spring 2023. While we are appreciative of the 0.5% funding for enrollment growth, we argue that insufficient growth funding fails to support enrollment increases that colleges have worked hard to achieve and disincentivizes future efforts to include growth in strategic enrollment management plans.

For this reason, we are requesting the Legislature provide additional funding for enrollment growth to reward districts for growing their student populations through intentional and innovative outreach practices.

Discretionary Block Grant for Community Colleges

Governor Newsom proposes nearly \$1.8 billion to fund the Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant for K-12 local educational agencies. We believe that the discretionary grant fund being proposed for K-12 education is an effective use of one-time Proposition 98 funds.

Our request is that the Legislature also provide community colleges with a similar discretionary block grant so that our members can have flexible dollars to address unique challenges and priorities within their districts.

Rising Scholars Network

Governor Newsom is proposing a base increase of \$30 million to the Rising Scholars Network, bringing total funding for the program to \$55 million ongoing.

We believe this is a prudent use of funding as Rising Scholars programs provide college educational opportunities to students who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Research shows that the justice-impacted students participating in Rising Scholars programs often achieve similar, if not higher, academic success compared to their non-justice-involved peers.

For these reasons, we support the \$30 million expansion proposed by the Governor.

Restore Deferred Maintenance Funding

The 2023-24 Enacted Budget included a net reduction of \$494.3 million deferred maintenance funding based on reductions and appropriations from the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 fiscal years. That funding was not restored in the 2024-25 Enacted Budget, nor is it proposed to be restored in the 2025-26 Governor's Budget proposal. On the other hand, the Governor is proposing a restoration of the similarly reduced K-12 Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant.

Deferred maintenance funding is essential for community colleges to address delayed repairs, facility upkeep, and infrastructure improvements that were postponed due to budget constraints.

For this reason, and in parity with K-12 funding restorations, we request that the Legislature restore the \$494.3 million in deferred maintenance funding that was reduced in the 2023-24 Enacted Budget.