



ACCCA Legislative Platform Addendum 2026 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 budget issues for 2026.

Honor the Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee

Governor Gavin Newsom proposes to appropriate the 2025-26 (current budget year) Proposition 98 minimum guarantee at \$115.9 billion, or \$5.6 billion lower than the revised estimated level of \$121.4 billion. By proposing to allocate \$5.6 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. If billions of dollars in constitutionally guaranteed education funding can be withheld whenever the broader budget becomes tight, Proposition 98 ceases to function as a meaningful safeguard.

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 supports Governor Newsom's proposal to apply the estimated 2.41% 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 Student Equity and Achievement Program, Strong Workforce Program, full-time faculty funding, 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 \$55 million for additional systemwide enrollment growth in 2025-26 and \$32 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. Demand for programs continues to outpace funded capacity. While we are appreciative of the proposed 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 \$184.5 million ongoing to support 3% enrollment growth across both 2025-26 and 2026-27. Additionally, we request the SCFF be amended to allow credit full-time equivalent students (FTES) to be calculated using the higher of the three-year average or the amount in the current year starting in 2025-26 and eliminate the 10% cap on funded FTES growth starting in 2025-26. These changes reward districts for growing their student populations through intentional and innovative outreach practices.

Student Support Block Grant

Last year, we called on the Governor and the Legislature to provide community colleges with an equivalent block grant to the funding provided to K-12 districts so that our members can have flexible dollars to address unique challenges and student priorities within their districts. We applaud and support the inclusion of \$100 million for the Student Support Block Grant in the 2026-27 Governor's Budget.

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 or 2025-26 Enacted Budgets. On the other hand, the Governor is proposing full restoration in 2026-27 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.

While we support the Governor's proposal to include \$120.7 million to address deferred maintenance needs, we request that the Legislature fully restore the \$494.3 million in deferred maintenance funding that was reduced in the 2023-24 Enacted Budget.