



2022 State Legislative Priorities



Extend College Promise to Community College Students Transferring to California State University (Assemblymember Santiago)

This bill extends the California Community College Promise program to students who transfer to the California State University system (CSU). In doing so, students will be able to attend the community colleges and CSU system tuition and fee free in securing their Associate of Arts degree and Bachelor of Arts degree. As a condition of participation in this program, community college students need to complete the College Promise Program, Associate Degree for Transfer, submit an application for a state university grant, a FAFSA application, or a Dream Act application.

Community College Ethnic Studies (formerly AB 1040-Muratsuchi)

This bill requires each student to complete a 3-unit ethnic studies course to receive an Associate degree. The bill also requires community college districts to offer ethnic studies courses and to allow districts to make ethnic studies courses portable among community college districts so that colleges would be able to offer ethnic studies courses in another districts. Finally, the bill allows for an expedited approval process for ethnic studies courses.

California Center for Climate Change (Assemblymember Bryan)

As the Administration and Legislature seeks to advance green technology, the Los Angeles Community College District West Los Angeles College would become a critical hub for advancing climate education. This bill establishes the California Center for Climate Change Education (the Center) at West Los Angeles College. The purpose of the measure is to further advance California as the leader in climate change education as the only community college in the nation to offer an Associate of Arts degree in Climate Change and Environmental Studies. The Center develops educational resources to assist faculty in the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary systems by providing fact-based education about climate change and its direct relation to equity and environmental justice issues. The Center supports career development opportunities, enhances community outreach, prepares students for future green energy fields, and supports curriculum development for future programs. In addition, the Center establishes opportunities for students to engage in internships, externships, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities. The bill allocates \$5 million for the development of the Center.

California Center for Climate Change Budget Request

LACCD is seeking \$5 million to support the first-of-its-kind center for climate studies at the Los Angeles Community College District, on the West Los Angeles Campus. Under the program, the funding is a one-time appropriation and supports faculty development and hands-on learning for students.

Instructional Service Agreements (Assemblymember Muratsuchi)

Police and firefighters are mandated to complete on-going training for their profession, which is normally done through community college course work. These courses are provided through an Instructional Service Agreement (ISA) between a community college and a public safety agency. Because formula funding changed a few years ago, community colleges have been receiving less funding to support these programs. This bill provides full funding based on a general apportionment rate per full-time equivalent student (FTES) enrollment hours or according to the new Student Success Funding Formula.

Higher UP (Assemblymember Bryan)

LACCD is partnering with the County of Los Angeles on a measure that provides stipends to formerly justice-involved students seeking to advance their education at California's community colleges. The bill establishes the Hire UP: From Corrections to Career in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. A guaranteed stipend will be provided for those who enroll in career programming at one of California's community colleges. Upon completion of a certificate at one of California's Community Colleges, graduates will be connected to their local Workforce Development Board for priority placement into a Hire Road Career.

Higher UP Budget Request

The Higher UP program is funded through an annual \$60 million appropriation and requires enrolling at least 5,000 formerly incarcerated individuals annually to participate in the stipend program. Up to 75% of those formerly incarcerated are still unemployed a year after they exit incarceration. This measure provides better access to critical job-training services and higher education opportunities offered at community colleges.

Additional 2022 Budget Priorities

Base Funding Increase

On a per-student basis, community colleges continue to be the lowest-funded system of public education in California. Recognizing the minimum costs of running a college, LACCD supports an increase to the base allocation that goes to all community college districts. Recently, the need for increased technology, cyber security, and a greater focus on community college services colleges require additional funding into the district's base. While the COLA simply enables districts to maintain spending power, there are numerous costs associated with running a college that fall outside of the COLA.

CalSTRS & CalPERS Employer Contribution Reductions

Two years ago, the state provided funding to K-12 schools and community colleges that reduced the employer contribution that districts are required to pay into the CalSTRS & CalPERS systems. That funding is scheduled to expire next year, and districts will face a significant increase in retirement costs. Reducing the employer contribution will free up general operational funds that can be used to support student access and success.

Ethnic Studies Full-Time Faculty Reorganization

Last year, the Board of Governors passed regulations requiring all community college transfer students to complete a course in ethnic studies. In addition, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 1460 (Weber) in 2020, which requires students at the CSU to complete a course in ethnic studies prior to graduation. The CSU has implemented the program to make the requirement a lower division course. These two developments mean that community colleges are going to have to dramatically grow their ethnic studies course offerings and will have to build out their faculty to comply with the requirements of AB 1460. The Los Angeles Community College District is requesting state funding for full-time faculty targeted to hire ethnic studies faculty.

LA Metro Fairless Initiative

One of the leading barriers to student success is transportation. Students must have access to affordable transportation in order to access courses critical to their education and workforce development. LACCD is seeking \$2 million in funding that could be spent over a five-year period in order to pilot a Fareless Initiative for students to have access to universal LA Metro transit passes. This seed funding allows the district to create a long-term program that would encourage public ridership, provide transportation access, and reduce the district's carbon footprint.

Biotechnology Program

LACCD is seeking \$2.8 million to support a new biotechnology laboratory on the Los Angeles Mission College Campus. The laboratory would be state-of-the-art and provide for an expansion of a unique, yet highly sought-after program at Los Angeles Mission College. Biotechnology is one of the fastest growing workforce fields in California and in the Los Angeles region. Eventually, the plan is to transition the program into a baccalaureate degree program at the college that would serve the entire region's workforce needs.

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