



## 2024 State Legislative and State Budget Priorities

### State Policy Proposals

#### SB 895 (Roth) – Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing

California needs more qualified, degree-holding nurses at the local, regional, and statewide levels to address the growing health disparities in California. The bill would help address the problem that California has one of the lowest ratios of employed registered nurses per 100,000 population in the United States – 40th out of 50 in the nation. The Governor’s Administration has set ambitious goals of adding more than one million bachelor’s degree holders to California’s workforce by 2030. This bill would create a pilot that would authorize several community colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs in nursing (BSN). It would provide an avenue for nursing students to obtain a higher education degree in a specialized field without vying for a spot in an already limited existing degree program, moving out of state, or enrolling in a high-cost for-profit institution, where the vast majority of bachelor degrees in nursing are granted in California. Allowing BSNs at community colleges further reduces the total completion costs for nursing degrees, and reduces the potential for student loan debt borne by community college students in these programs.



#### AB 2093 (Santiago) – Tuition-Free Community College Baccalaureate Degree

Graduates from California higher education institutions are finishing their degree programs with an average student loan debt of more than \$37,000. Student financial aid programs in California are typically exhausted by the end of a student’s general education breadth courses or midway through completing a 4-year degree program. This bill would provide students enrolled in a community college baccalaureate degree program with free tuition through the completion of their 4-year degree, as long as they meet specified minimum requirements. The bill will lessen the total student loan debt taken on by community college students while increasing the degree attainment of Californians entering the workforce out of college.

#### Black Achievement Center for Academic Excellence

This bill establishes the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Black Academic Excellence Student Center. The Center will develop educational resources to assist Black/African American student success at LACCD and K-12 schools to develop a pathway to increase college enrollment and completion. The Center will include transfer readiness, academic services, and social and emotional support, while students are enrolled in a dual enrollment program. A \$5 million budget request is being made for this purpose.

## AB 2931 (Fong) – Community College Part-time Student Tutors

Community college districts have a growing need for peer-to-peer student tutors to provide academic support. However, more than 60% of community college students are enrolled part-time, making them ineligible to be hired by many colleges as part-time tutors. This bill would simply expand the eligibility of part-time students to become employed part-time as student tutors at their community colleges. Part-time students will benefit from the additional opportunities to work on campus, and all students will benefit from the additional opportunities to receive tutoring and academic support from their peers.



## State Budget Proposals

### AB 3142 (Jones-Sawyer) – West LA Mobile Climate Center

In 2022, the state invested \$5 million in the **California Center for Climate Change Education at West Los Angeles College** at the Los Angeles Community College District. That funding is being used to develop curriculum, workforce preparation training, and conduct educational outreach on the impact of climate change. The Center, however, is limited in its ability to reach out to the community. Investment in a mobile climate center would allow West Los Angeles College and the Los Angeles Community College District to proactively engage in educational outreach and education in the community, particularly in underserved communities. It will enable the Climate Center to proactively reach local schools, non-profit organizations, businesses, and community colleges. A request of \$1.5 million is being made for a Mobile Climate Center that can travel to the surrounding community.

### Financial Aid Equity Framework

Two years ago, the state passed a monumental policy overhauling California's Cal Grant program that expands educational access to and financial aid to eligible students. The changes to the Cal Grant program were made contingent upon significant funding being available to implement the new program. The Los Angeles Community College District strongly supports the state pulling the trigger to implement the Cal Grant Equity Framework. The Framework creates two new Cal Grants: Cal Grant 4 for those students accessing four-year colleges and universities and Cal Grant 2 for community college students. The changes included in the Framework would significantly enhance access to California's community colleges, and would eliminate barriers like time out of high school, age, and GPA requirements that hurt community college students the most.

Scan here for more information on LACCD's past and present advocacy efforts:



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