



April 30, 2020

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019 Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair Assembly  
Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Student Centered Funding Formula During a Recession**

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), California Community Colleges Independents (CCCI), Community College Association (CCA), and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) are grateful for the leadership of Governor Newsom and the California Legislature in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. We also deeply appreciate the recognition of the California Community Colleges as the critical educational system for training Californians on the front lines of the COVID-19 response, and as the engine to move the economy forward once the epidemic subsides.

Faculty, specifically, have been called upon to quickly transition to remote teaching while continuing to provide the high-quality education our 2.1 million students received prior to the public health crisis. It has been inspiring to see faculty across the State respond to this challenge in creative and innovative ways on behalf of our students and communities. We understand that the economic future is uncertain, but faculty are steadfastly committed to ensuring that our community colleges deliver high-quality, transformative, and accessible education as the State moves into an expected recession, which has historically resulted in much higher student demand.

In order to focus funding to meet the core purpose of the California Community Colleges system, to serve all California residents who can benefit from higher education, our faculty organizations propose the following to adjust the Student Centered Funding Formula during an economic recession:

1. Fund the General FTES Access Base Allocation first.

2. Fund the Supplemental Allocation second. Rather than take money away from the base allocation of some colleges to augment others, maintain the “hold harmless” provision indefinitely, and only fund supplemental allocations if the state provides funding above the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee.
3. If still viable, fund the Performance Allocation last if funding is provided above the minimum guarantee.

We hold firmly to the California Community Colleges system’s principle of open access for all Californians and believe access must be prioritized within the funding formula. We remain steadfastly opposed to performance-based funding and continue to encourage that this component of funding be removed, not only because no evidence exists that it is an effective means to encourage positive behavior in institutions of higher education, but also because it will lead to a reduction of access and undermine student success efforts in colleges most in need of supplemental support. If performance-based funding remains, it should be the last component funded and only if the base and supplemental allocations are fully funded.

We believe this recommendation for adjusting the funding formula during a recession will ensure that funding is distributed in an equitable manner. Prioritizing the funding of access would provide the greatest stability for colleges while emphasizing the aspects of the formula that will have the greatest impact on institutional and student success.

Respectfully,



John Stankas, President  
Academic Senate for California Community Colleges



Jeffrey Michels, President  
California Community College Independents



Eric Kaljumägi, President  
Community College Association, an affiliate of the California Teachers Association



Debbie Klein, President  
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges