



BEYOND TUITION: REDUCING FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO COLLEGE

Through experience, California has learned that tuition is only a small part of a student's total cost of attendance. A conversation about affordability must include financial aid for students to cover cost of living, books, food, and other critical expenses.

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF GOVERNORS FEE WAIVER.

Prior to 1984, enrollment at a California community college was free. In response to the recession in the early 1980s, the California Legislature introduced an enrollment fee for community colleges. In order to ensure affordability and accessibility for all Californians seeking higher education, lawmakers enacted the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver in 1985. Over the past three decades, the BOG Fee Waiver has helped more than 5.1 million students by exempting them from fees for attendance at a California community college.

BOG Fee Waiver: BY THE NUMBERS.



of California's **2.1 Million** community college students receive a fee waiver each year.

66%

of the units taught at California Community Colleges are taken by students whose fees are waived.

\$803 Million

of equivalent tuition aid is projected this year with the BOG Fee Waiver.

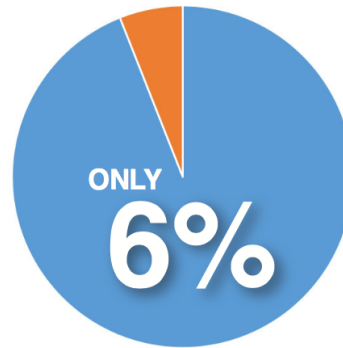
Removing Financial Barriers to Community Colleges

Both community colleges and the state have a role in delivering the California College Promise. Colleges can build on the promise of access and success by leveraging the state's significant investment through the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver and partnering with K-12 and universities, college foundations and the private sector to further decrease access costs for students from underrepresented communities. The state can, and should, do its part by reforming Cal Grants to better serve community college students.

CAL GRANTS AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Once the total cost of attendance and all available financial aid is taken into account, it is **more expensive** for a financially needy student to attend a community college than a UC or CSU campus.

Community college students are more likely to be socio-economically disadvantaged, undocumented, retraining adults, or the first in their family to attend college.



of California community college students receive resources distributed by Cal Grants, despite comprising about **two-thirds of the higher education population** in the state.

FINANCIAL AID AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

- The **lack of investment** in California's community college students forces them to work more, take a reduced course load and be **less academically successful**.
- **40% of community college students** are the **first in their family** to attend college.
- **65% of students** don't buy **textbooks** because they could not afford them.

REFORMING CAL GRANTS TO BETTER SERVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

Increase the number of competitive Cal Grants.

Make policy changes to ensure Cal Grants serve non-traditional age students. More than 30% of community college students are over the age of 28.