

2021-22 TALKING POINTS

MAY REVISE 2021



Key Points in Meetings with Legislators:

- Thank the Administration for investing in California's community colleges by paying down the deferrals, increasing the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), funding deferred maintenance needs, and providing for student housing.
- Encourage the Administration and the Legislature to continue working on financial aid reform, employing the framework of Assembly Members Kevin McCarty and Jose Medina's AB 1456 to help our students account for the **total cost of attendance**. We also urge a **cost-of-living adjustment for financial aid administration** to ensure our lowest-income students have the support they need in a timely manner.
- Request consideration of **an additional one percent supplemental increase to the base** to address rising costs and support our ability to serve our students and communities equitably.

Overview

California Community Colleges are uniquely positioned to assist in transforming our state's K-Shaped recovery and economy, where primarily the wealthy have prospered amidst historical social, economic, and racial inequality, to a more inclusive equity-based or E-shaped recovery and economy. Governor Newsom's May Revision recognizes that locally governed and located community colleges serve the most diverse and lowest-income Californians necessitating flexible base investments to confront our unsustainable educational, economic, and social disparities. We thank both the state and federal governments for acknowledging California Community Colleges as always essential and integral to moving us from a K-Shaped to an E-Shaped recovery and economy by approving the necessary funding and policy changes to facilitate this critical work.

The Governor's May Revision aligns with the League's top priorities

COLA + Base Allocation = Equitable Investment

The League is grateful to the Governor for moving community colleges closer to parity in the budget with our K-12 partners with a compound cost-of-living adjustment of 4.05%. (The cost of this COLA was supported by providing \$185 million in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund dollars plus the

Governor's original proposed \$111.1 million). This ongoing investment assists community college districts in addressing the increasing costs of keeping the doors and portals open and operating. May Revision investments in Dual Enrollment and other collaborative work with our K-12 and university partners recognize the interdependency and power of collaboration along the entire span of public education in California. Still, the very sector of post-secondary public education serving the largest number of Californians disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, job loss, and historical inequities was not provided a one percent supplemental base allocation like that for K-12, nor did community colleges receive a COLA commensurate with our university partners. **We respectfully request consideration of an additional one percent supplemental increase to the base to address rising costs and support our ability to serve our students and communities equitably.**

Deferral Buy-down

We are grateful for the Governor's proposal to buy down the deferrals in their entirety. This action will provide colleges with more funds for locally determined needs while offering state policymakers more options for possible future downturns.

Deferred Maintenance

We appreciate the proposal to provide more than one half billion in one-time dollars to support deferred maintenance at our colleges and districts and **urge elected leaders to maintain this necessary investment** (The Administration would provide \$314.1 million in one-time Proposition 98 General Fund support and an additional \$250 million in the one-time American Rescue Act of 2021).

Other Important Issues

Reforming Financial Aid

Despite comprising two-thirds of the California higher education population, community college students receive only six percent of Cal Grant resources. This disparity must end if we are serious about building a more equitable California. We recognize that financial aid is an ongoing expenditure; that much of the 2021-22 budget is one-time in nature; and that the Administration has made significant investments in our colleges and students. Still, we encourage the Administration and Legislature to continue working on financial aid reform, employing the framework of Assembly Member Kevin McCarty and Jose Medina's AB 1456 to help our students account for the **total cost of attendance**. Further, the League identifies a **Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Financial Aid Administration** as a necessary condition of equitably and efficiently disbursing financial aid to the lowest-income students in a timely manner for access and success.

Workforce Based Learning

The League has approached this pandemic and its recovery with the desire to have an Equitable or "E-shaped" recovery, which ensures that our most vulnerable students and families are protected. In so doing, we have advocated for a budget that helps stave off a lost generation of students who drop out and do not return to complete their educational and professional goals. The Governor has proposed a multi-pronged approach to help workers seek retraining, address regional work needs, ensure intersegmental collaboration, and address equity gaps with his Learning Aligned Employment, Education and Training Support Grants for Displaced Workers, and Regional K-16 Education Collaborative initiatives.

Investing in Our Students

We applaud the Governor for providing \$4 billion in funding for housing projects at the UC, CSU, and CCC as helping our campuses address housing for our students is critical for continued educational success. We want to call out the proposed \$115 million in one-time funds to support Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Grant Programs, which can address out-of-pocket costs for students, helping them avoid buying or renting costly textbooks. Finally, we want to recognize the Governor's \$30 million ongoing for basic needs centers and staff, along with the long-term investment in college savings accounts for low-income children.