



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

SDSU Educational Leadership



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA



Importance of Advocacy



Importance of Advocacy



Why be an advocate?

- Crucial decisions impacting your institutions and students are made in Sacramento.
 - Due to Propositions 13 and 98 bulk of funding for community college goes through Sacramento.
 - Legislature sets state policy goals for community college districts.
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Legislators

- How are these resources helping your students?

Want

- What impact will the bill have on individual students in the legislator's district?

Local

Context

- What successful efforts have these funds or policies allowed your college to launch?
- Give specific program examples.

Share Your District's Success Stories!



Policy Briefs: Telling Your Story

Policy Briefs:

- **Background**
 - Brief outlines the background of the policy area using clear examples.
- **Significance**
 - Brief highlights the importance of the policy and/or case selection to the US policy concerns.
- **Recommendations**
 - Recommendations are clear, concise, and directly link to the specific policy issue.
- **Audience**
 - Consider who the intended reader of the brief is.
 - Easy to understand language.
 - Present data in a manageable way.
- **Expected Outcomes**
 - Outcomes are examined using reliable evidence. They directly relate to the recommendations.
 - Economic Implications
 - Policy Implications
 - Security Implications



Importance of Advocacy

Three Areas of Advocacy



State Budget



State Legislation



Federal Issues



Federal Issues



Higher Education Act

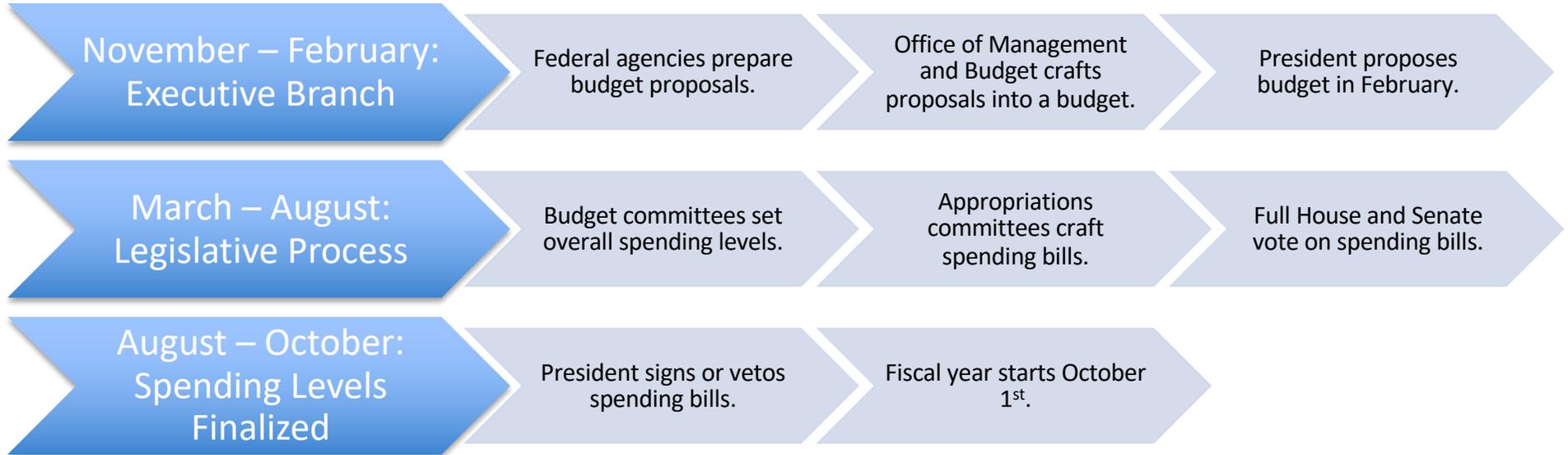
Setting Federal Higher Education Policy

- Expired in 2013
 - Goal is to periodically update and review federal higher education policy.
 - Theoretically primary vehicle behind federal higher education policy.
 - Opportunity to pass legislation closing.
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Appropriations Process

“Conventional” Appropriations Process:

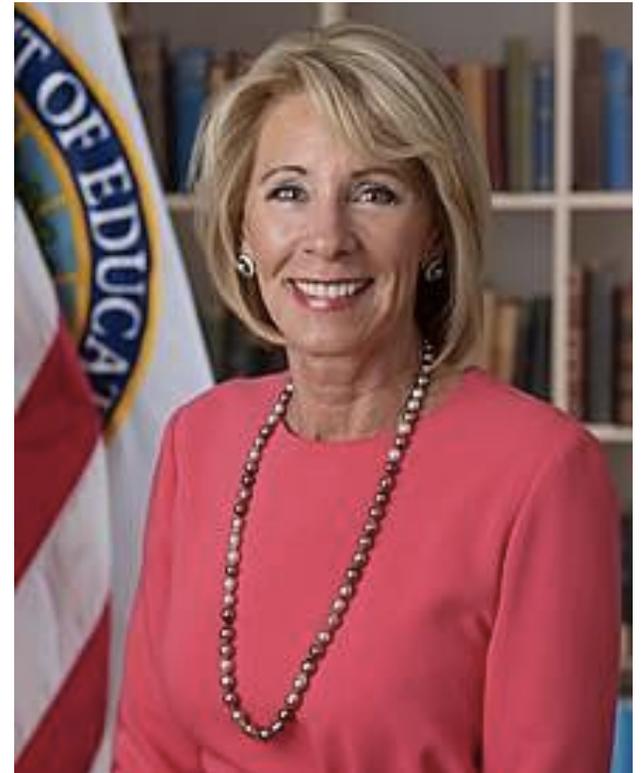


- Lawmakers often ignore process.
- If no agreement, generally a resolution authorizing programs funded at current levels to be continued.
- Most community college funding contained in HHS – Education - Labor spending bill.



Department of Education: Policymaking by Regulation

- Lack of congressional action on Higher Education Act has led to increased Department of Education regulatory action.
- Practice under both the Obama and Trump administrations.
- Focused on providing more flexibility for institutions.
- Particular focus on making it easier for for-profit colleges to operate.





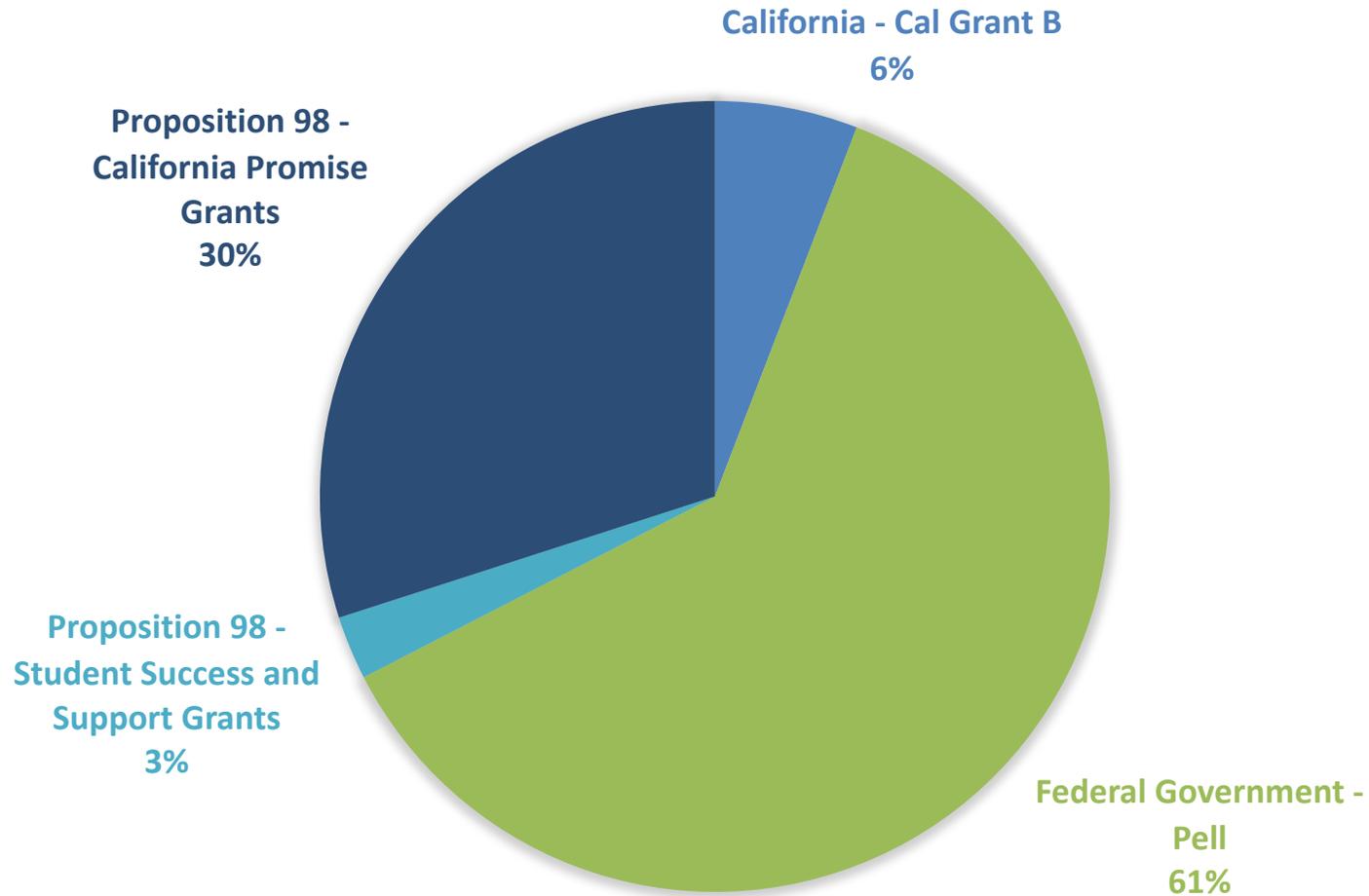
Financial Aid

- The federal government by far the biggest provider of financial aid to students.
- Pell Grants – Direct Grants to Low Income Students
 - In California 100% of Pell Grant goes directly to the student.
- Department of Education – The “Bank” of the Federal Government
 - Administers over \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt.
 - 6% of California community college graduates have federal loans.



Financial Aid

MAJOR FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS





Undocumented Students: DACA and DREAM Act

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival:

- Permits students brought to US as children to obtain work permits.
- President Trump has proposed rescinding the program.
- Supreme Court to determine legality of revocation in 2020 term.

DREAM ACT:

- Would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented students.
- Permit undocumented students to be eligible for federal financial aid.

Current Services:

- AB 540 Centers
 - Undocumented Student Action Week
 - Legal services
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Undocumented Students: Undocumented Student Action Week

Advocacy Framework:

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Week Long Activities | 1.DREAM2Action. An email and social media campaign urging the California Congressional Delegation to take immediate legislative action. This campaign will use an online tool for sending emails and tweets to your representatives. | | | | |
| | Question of the day. At 12:00 p.m. on each day of Undocumented Student Action Week the Community College League of California will tweet a new question centered around undocumented students. Each day will address a new topic. You can engage in the discussion on Twitter. | | | | |
| Advocacy for Undocumented Students | Share Your Story | Convene With Others | Meet With Your Representative | Speak Your Mind | Register Allies |
| Suggested Actions for Advocacy | Share your immigration story with this image + caption campaign to demonstrate that everyone has a unique migrant story. | Host a townhall on your campus. This is an opportunity to invite members of your community to discuss legislative policies statewide. Consider inviting your representative and their staff. Or host a “Know Your Rights” or “Know Your Resources” Workshop. | Schedule a district office meeting with your legislative leaders urging them to take action on federal issues and increased financial support for services. | Host a phone banking party to urge your congressional representative to take issues on that impact undocumented students. | Host a movie screening highlighting migrant stories. As a next step, register allies to vote immediately after the screening. |



Legislative Landscape



Legislative Update: 2019-20 Legislative Session

- Democrats achieved super (duper) majorities.
- Supermajority derived from legislators elected in moderate to conservative districts.
- Effectively three political parties:
 - Conservative Republicans
 - Moderate Democrats
 - Liberal Democrats
- Due to revised term limits, this is the most experienced state legislature since the early 2000s.

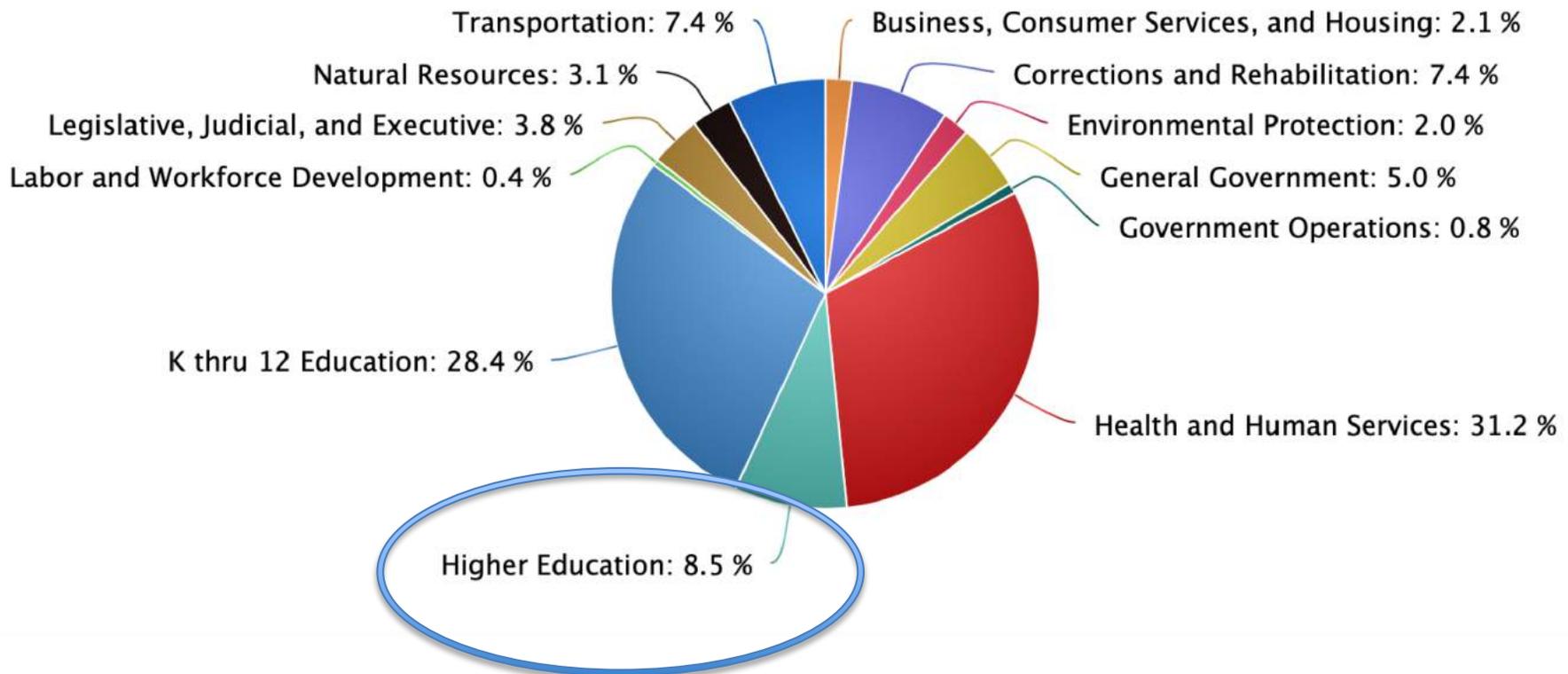


Budget Update



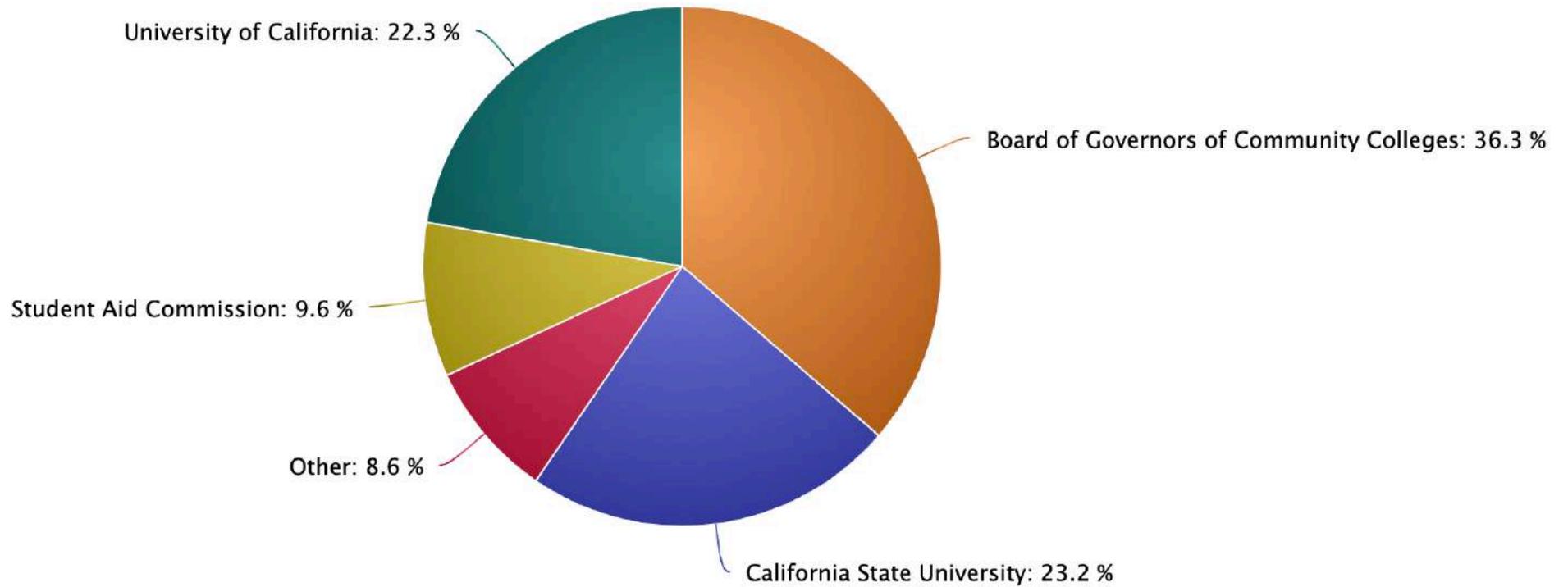
2019 Budget Act

Total State Funds Total \$214 Billion

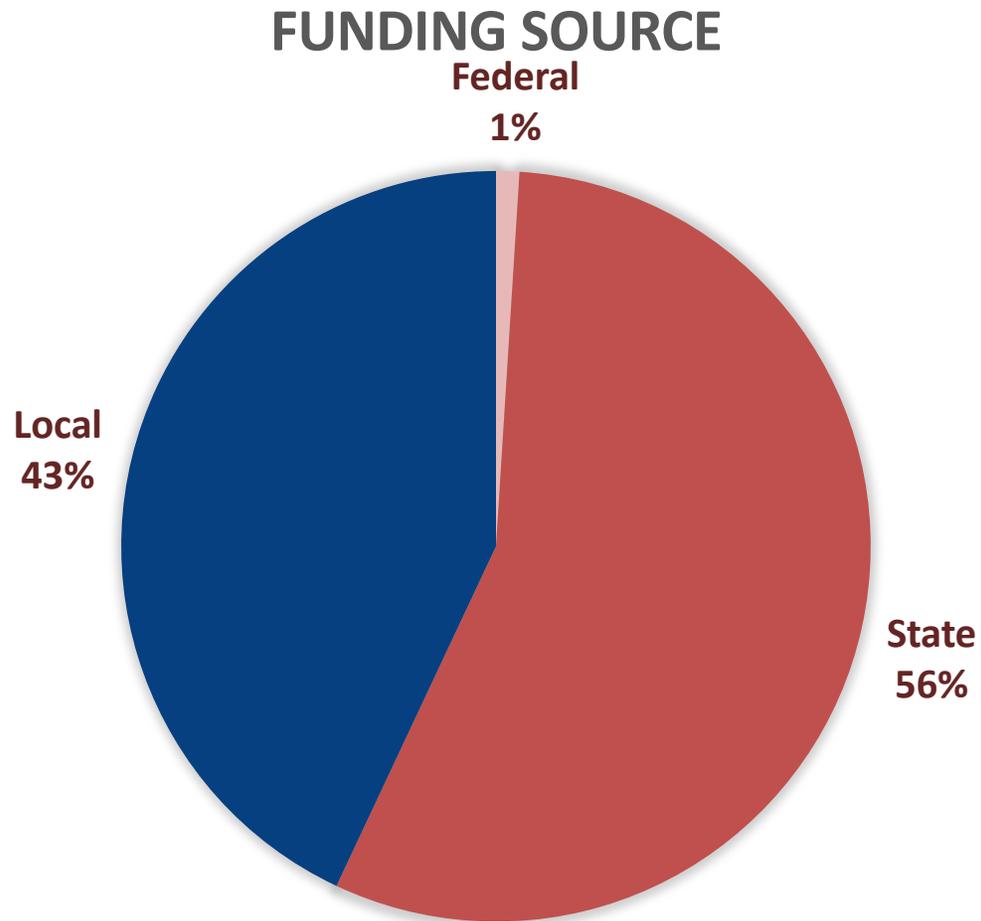




2019 Budget Act



Where does a college's money come from?





State Policy Issues



Inadequate Per Pupil Funding

- Community colleges receive the lowest per-pupil funding of any system in the state.
- Very small amount of discretionary dollars available to achieve state goals.
- Colleges must make hard choices.
- Reduction in quality of education for students.

FUNDS PER FTES

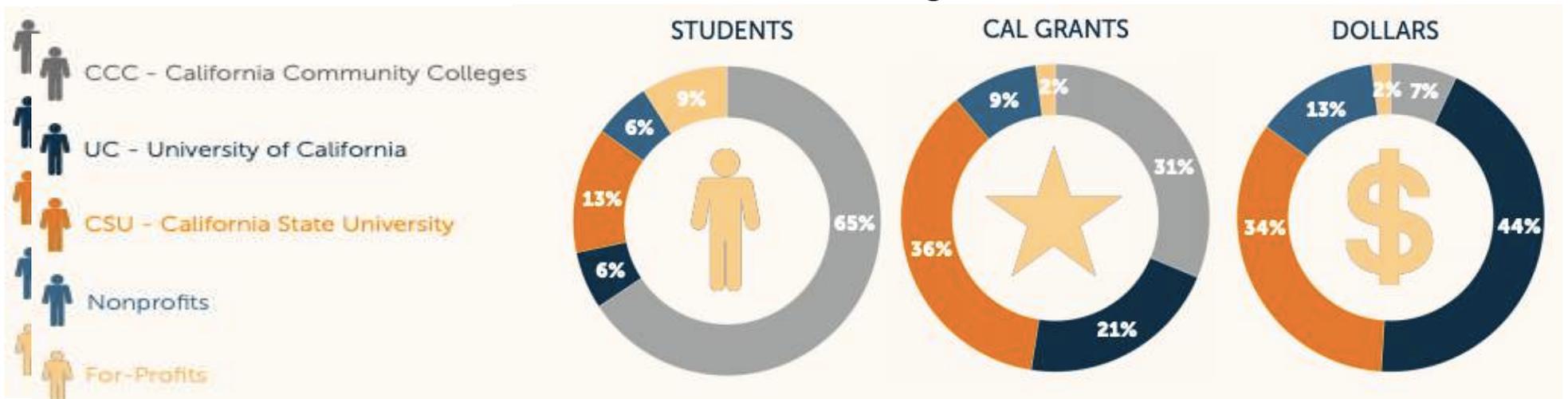
(includes General Fund, local property tax, student fees, and lottery revenues)

| | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| K-12 Education | \$11,214 | \$11,574 |
| California Community Colleges | \$7,749 | \$8,099 |
| California State University | \$17,182 | \$17,784 |
| University of California | \$32,381 | \$32,593 |



Inequitable Per Pupil Funding

- Despite making up two-thirds of the higher education students in the state, community college students receive 7% of the funding.
- Once total cost of attendance is taken into account, it is more expensive for a low income community college student to attend a community college than a UC or CSU.
- If a low-income student is able to access all available financial aid, they would likely need to work at least 20 or more hours a week to address living costs.





Empowering Communities to Make Decisions

Inherent conflict between the philosophies of local control and Sacramento based decisions:

- The League believes that communities are best equipped to make decisions in their best interest.
- Centralization of funding creates an incentive in Sacramento to make decisions that may seem to make sense to lawmakers.
- With 73 districts, 2.1 million students it is difficult to find a “one-size fits all” solution.

Example: AB 302 (Berman), which would have mandated that community colleges open up parking lots for homeless students to sleep overnight in.

Pros:

- Understandable reaction to state’s housing crisis.
- Students are already sleeping in their cars – why not somewhere safe on campus?

Cons:

- Most community colleges are not equipped to provide a safe space to camp overnight.
 - Funds required to implement legislation could be better used to support this population.
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Thank You



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