

# 2023-24 POLICY AGENDA

Despite an economic slowdown, the Governor's January Budget proposal aims to protect community college funding while making modest investments in targeted areas. Please review the points while emphasizing the impact of the Governor's proposal on your college or district.

## **COLA and Growth**

- Strongly support COLA and growth, and appreciate parity with K-12.
- Should additional funds become available, support extending COLA to other categorical programs, including SEAP.
- Explain local significance of these funds.

## **Flexibility**

- Districts need flexibility to serve local needs.
- Look forward to Governor's proposal on flexibility in categorical funds.
- Explain how flexibility can benefit your local district.

## **Deferred Maintenance/Enrollment**

- Although well-intentioned, Governor's proposal to redirect \$200 million from Deferred Maintenance to enrollment strategies has unintended consequences, particularly since many districts have already either committed these funds or engaged in planning efforts to do so.
- Urge Legislature to work with Administration on creating a solution to this issue where enrollment can be prioritized without jeopardizing Deferred Maintenance. Flexibility in budgeting would be particularly helpful.
- Both items can be successfully funded should new one-time funds materialize by May Revise.
- Explain impact on your local district

## **Financial Aid**

- Express appreciation to Administration for recognizing the significance of funding financial aid reform.
- Emphasize the need to keep the policy commitment on reforming financial aid as soon as funds are available as this is critical to our students and communities. It also addresses a significant enrollment strategy and is in keeping with the commitment of equity in higher education.
- Explain local effect of financial aid reform.