



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

2017 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

(916) 444-8641

(916) 444-2954 fax

Website: www.ccleague.org

February 10, 2023

Hon. Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget Committee

Hon. Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Community College Budget Proposal
6870-101-0001**

Dear Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf of the Community College League of California (the “League”), representing the community college CEOs and Trustees, we wish to express our appreciation to the Administration and legislative leadership for their support of our institutions and students. We share in your belief that the key to a successful democracy with a robust and thriving economy is quality public higher education which is grounded in both equity and accessibility. Amid declining revenue, the Governor’s January budget proposal affirms the centrality of our institutions to both local communities and the State of California while affording us the opportunity to implement the Roadmap for California Community Colleges.

Relative to the 2023-24 budget, our districts are most effective in serving students and communities when state financing offers stability, predictability, and flexibility, and it is through these principles that we offer our response to the Governor’s January proposal.

I. Ongoing

\$28.8 million to support 0.5 percent growth

Response: The League supports this proposal and requests that any unused funds for growth be considered for a supplemental allocation to base apportionment.

\$652.6 million to support 8.13% COLA on apportionments and select categorical programs

Response: The League is deeply appreciative of this proposal, particularly in how it aligns with our K-12 partners in Proposition 98. A cost-of-living increase is essential to keep pace with rising labor and programmatic costs and works to protect students from the ravages of inflation.

That said, we also recognize that some costs are rising faster than the COLA and that the proposed COLA neither offsets increased pension obligations nor covers all categorical programs from which various personnel are hired and paid. As such, we respectfully request consideration of extending the COLA to all categoricals, including the Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEAP), should additional funds become available in May.



Hon. Nancy Skinner

Hon. Phil Ting

Page Two

II. One-Time

Repurpose \$200 million from Deferred Maintenance and Instructional Equipment toward implementation of Enrollment Recruitment and Retention strategies.

Response: The League has multiple concerns with this proposal while recognizing the dual priorities reflected in these programs. Fundamentally, we are skeptical about repurposing money from an ongoing need—even one that is continually funded from one-time dollars—as it violates one of our core tenants of community college funding, predictability (the others being stability and flexibility). Many districts have invested significant sums in planning for deferred maintenance projects or instructional equipment purchases, and they have uniformly expressed concern that these investments will now be squandered. Further, just as districts are working with currently available federal support and state block grant funds to increase enrollment, they need to honor commitment to their current students to ensure they can learn in safe and modern facilities with up-to-date instructional equipment.

We respectfully oppose this proposal as presented and request that Deferred Maintenance remain whole while allowing districts the flexibility to utilize up to 25 percent for enrollment strategies. Should additional one-time resources become available in the May Revise, we once again recommend keeping Deferred Maintenance whole while using new dollars to backfill the projected spending on enrollment.

III. Flexibility and Streamlined Reporting

Intent to allow streamlining of reporting and flexibility in categorical spending to districts making progress on their Roadmap goals.

Response: The League supports these efforts and hopes to include modification of the Fifty Percent Law in these discussions.

IV. Student Housing

Reduce anticipated one-time expenditure from \$750 million to \$500 million in the budget year while delaying the remaining \$250 million until 2024-25.

Response: While the League recognizes the volatility of the State's fiscal condition, it opposes this move insofar as the lack of available student housing in many parts of the state has hit a crisis point and housing is now considered as a basic need to achieve student success and fulfill the goals set forth in the Roadmap. At a minimum, the League urges publication of the approved projects for the second round of student housing to allow greater predictability in local spending.



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

2017 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

(916) 444-8641

(916) 444-2954 fax

Website: www.ccleague.org

Hon. Nancy Skinner

Hon. Phil Ting

Page Three

V. Cal Grant

Administration acknowledges commitments in the current year's budget and is monitoring the state's overall fiscal condition to allow for later implementation.

Response: The League continues to place Cal Grant reform as a top priority and appreciates the Administration's acknowledgement in the budget summary. We urge the Legislature to continue its support for this policy goal.

We are once again grateful to you for your consideration of our positions and to the Governor for his support of community colleges. With the fluidity of the budget process, we retain our right to edit or amend these positions as new information becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larry Galizio, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Community College League of California
(916) 245-5032
galizio@ccleague.org

Andrew Martinez
Director of Government Relations
Community College League of California
(916) 662-4543
amartinez@ccleague.org