



A Proposal to Support Community College Affordability

California boasts the nation's broadest commitment to making college accessible and affordable for all of its residents. The Master Plan for Higher Education in California commits the state to providing a place in one of the state's public institutions to all those who could benefit—relying on the 115 California Community Colleges to serve the top 100 percent of students. At the same time, for those students who continue their educational journeys at the community colleges, state policy reinforces two deeply concerning inequities. The state budgets the lowest funding, on a per-student basis, to the community colleges, and existing policy makes relatively few resources available to students to support the total cost of community college attendance.

To ensure a meaningful commitment to higher education access and success, California must make a greater investment in California Community College students. In doing so, attending college must become more affordable for students—which is a proven strategy to encourage student success, especially for low-income students—by providing greater need-based grant aid and establishing a reasonable price students pay toward their own education. Simultaneously, the California Community Colleges will make a clear commitment to ensure that investment pays off by putting students on Guided Pathways to completion. Finally, state policy must ensure (1) students are not required to work an unreasonable number of hours in order to afford college and avoid unmanageable loan debt, and (2) when students work, it should complement their classroom-based learning.

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors has approved a proposal to expand student financial aid based on three principles:

- **If a student is attending the California Community Colleges, we must serve the needs that they have—regardless of their age, time out of high school or their prior academic history.** Under the proposal, all California Community College students would be eligible for need-based financial aid. To apply for an award, a student would be required to file a timely Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a California Dream Act, as applicable. Using these forms makes sure that students maximize the aid already available. The Board of Governors proposal represents a commitment on the part of the California Community Colleges to guide students in a timely manner through pathways toward their academic goals. Therefore, we would expect that the new grant would make this aid available for up to two years, adjusted proportionally for part-time attendance. To renew awards, students would be required to maintain satisfactory academic progress—as is currently required for other grants.

- **We must link a student’s financial aid to the total cost of attendance—not just the tuition and fees they pay directly to the colleges.** The total cost of attendance consists costs of tuition, fees, housing, transportation, food, books, and supplies. For students enrolled at California Community Colleges, the living costs generally exceed their tuition and fees. Therefore, the total cost of education must be the starting point for the new grant program design. The program would assume that students may have resources available to support some of these costs, including: (1) a student’s expected family contribution (EFC) as determined pursuant to existing policies; (2) other gift aid, including the Pell Grant, the Cal Grant, the existing California College Promise Grant (formerly titled the BOG Fee Waiver), and the Student Success Completion Grant; and, (3) an amount that a student is expected to contribute from work—with our commitment to better link the classroom to the workplace and student career goals. The remaining amount would be funded through the new grant created by this program. This support would help more students attend college full-time and graduate on time. For those for whom part-time attendance better aligns with their needs, the new grant would be adjusted proportionately.
- **Students come to the California Community Colleges with many educational goals—not necessarily to earn degrees or transfer, and students with other goals should receive financial support to allow them to achieve those goals. California’s future—and its economy—requires that commitment.** Therefore, the new grant would allow students enrolled in any community college program that meets the requirements for the federal Pell Grant to be eligible for this grant.

New investments in financial aid should challenge the California Community Colleges to do more to improve student success. The Board of Governors embraces that challenge. As a condition of a college’s participation in the program, a college would need to commit to ongoing reform. This includes providing students in K-12 schools with early information about college, establishing formal partnerships with their local school districts, placing more students initially in college-level courses (rather than developmental education), reorganizing their institutions to offer students Guided Pathways, and making federal loans available to students who need it (which alleviates pressure for those students to take out risky private loans).

We are one education system, and all of our students are all of our responsibilities. Students come to our colleges from many places—having attended schools and colleges before they come to us and intending to seek further education after they leave. Many attend multiple institutions simultaneously. This proposal seeks to address one set of inequities—for the benefit of all Californians.

HOW A NEW GRANT WOULD REDUCE THE PRICE STUDENTS PAY TO ATTEND CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

	Total Cost of Attendance
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Tuition and Fees</i>• <i>Books, Supplies, Transportation, and Other Personal Expenses</i>• <i>Room and Board</i>
—	Expected Family Contribution
	Existing Grants
—	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Pell Grant</i>• <i>Cal Grant</i>• <i>Existing California College Promise Grant (BOG Fee Waiver)</i>• <i>CCC Student Success Completion Grant</i>
—	Reasonable Contribution from Student Earnings or Other Resources
<hr/>	
=	Additional Grant Funds Awarded to Student through New Grant

Cal Grant Reform Motion

California Student Aid Commission

November 29, 2018

In the interest of ensuring equity, affordability, and a student-centered State financial aid system, I move that the staff be directed to work with stakeholders and legislators to reform the existing Cal Grant Program to:

1. Remove or reduce eligibility and access barriers in the current Cal Grant program;
2. Change the model of the Cal Grant program to focus on total cost of attendance, including maintaining full coverage of tuition and systemwide fees for public college and university students;
3. Reinstate a formula for an annual adjustment to the maximum Cal Grant for students attending private nonprofit institutions; and
4. Support additional Cal Grant eligibility for students taking summer coursework.



Support for the California Community College Affordability Proposal

To ensure a meaningful commitment to higher education access and success, California must make a greater investment in California Community College students. Specifically, the state should expand student financial aid aligned to the following three principles:

- 1) All students attending the California Community Colleges should be eligible for California’s need-based financial aid program—regardless of their age, time out of high school or their prior academic history. All California Community College students should be eligible for the Cal Grant program.

- 2) We must link students’ financial aid award to their total cost of attendance—not just the tuition and fees paid directly to the colleges. The total cost of attendance consists costs of tuition, fees, housing, transportation, food, books, and supplies, and this total cost must be included in community college Cal Grant program design.

- 3) Students come to the California Community Colleges with many educational goals and they should receive financial support to allow them to achieve those goals. The community college student Cal Grant should support enrollment in any community college program that meets the requirements for the federal Pell Grant.

This form certifies that **(Insert CEO Name)** on behalf of **(Insert College or District)** supports these principles for expanding student financial aid to better serve California Community College students.

CEO Signature

Date

College Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

California Community Colleges

Board of Governors 2019-20 Budget and Legislative Request on Financial Aid

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Engines of Social and Economic Mobility

- Largest system of higher education in the nation: 115 colleges serving over 2.1 million students
- Open access to provide all students a college degree, workforce education, adult skills courses, and lifelong learning
- Most diverse student body of any system of higher education
- Largest provider of workforce training in the state and nation
- Nearly 30 percent of UC and 50 percent of CSU graduates started at a California Community College

A Vision for Success

Five Year Goals

1. Increase credential obtainment by 20%
2. Increase transfer by 35% to UC and CSU
3. Decrease unit obtainment for a degree
4. Increase employment for CE students
5. Reduce and erase equity gaps
6. Reduce regional gaps

Commitments

1. Focus on students' goals
2. Design with the students' experience in mind
3. High expectations and high support
4. Evidence-based decisions
5. Own student performance
6. Cross-system partnership
7. Thoughtful innovation and action

ALIGNED RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS TO PUT STUDENTS FIRST

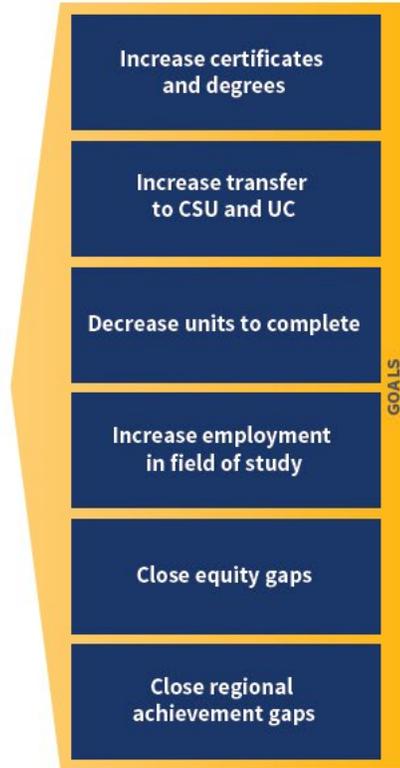
THE WHY

Our Students and Communities



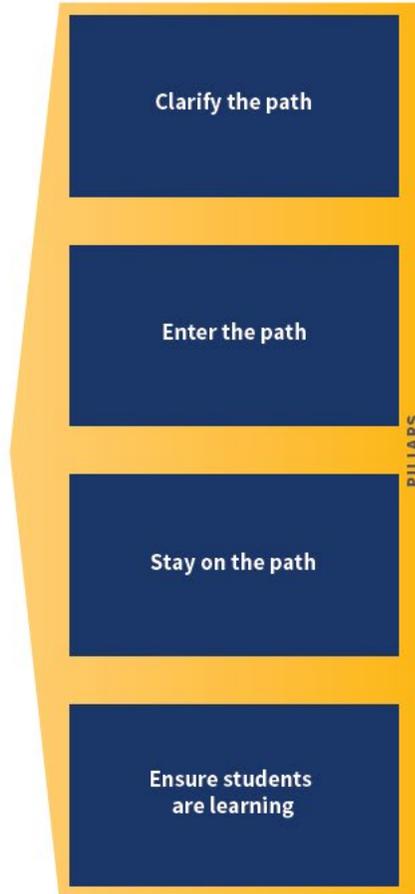
THE WHAT

Vision for Success



THE HOW

Guided Pathways



THE TOOLS

System-level Support



Historical Commitment to Tuition Affordability

- For over 75 years, community colleges charged no tuition or fees
- In 1984 the statutory fee and fee waiver program were established
- At \$46/unit California Community College fees remain the lowest in the nation
- Nearly half of all students pay no fees under the California College Promise Grant (formerly Board of Governors Fee Waiver)

Total Cost of California Community College

	Cost Components for Students Living Independently (students' predominant living status)
Textbooks	\$1,791
Transportation	\$1,242
Room and Board	\$12,492
Personal/Misc.	\$2,916
SUBTOTAL	\$18,441
Tuition (\$46 Unit)	\$1,380
TOTAL	\$19,821

Community College students are not adequately served by existing Cal Grant structure

- Community colleges enroll about two-thirds of California's undergraduate students, but receive only about 7% of Cal Grant funds
- Nearly 40% of UC and 36% of CSU undergraduate students receive a Cal Grant
- Only about 5% of California's community college students receive a Cal Grant award, despite 43% meeting the income requirement for a fee waiver

Principles for Change

We are one education system, and all of our students are all of our responsibilities. This proposal seeks to address one set of inequities—for the benefit of all Californians.

Principles for Change – Eligibility

Serve the financial needs of all California Community College students regardless of their age or their prior academic history.

- All CCC students would be eligible for financial aid
- Students would file timely Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a California Dream Act and maximize existing grant aid
- Colleges commit to guide students in a timely manner through pathways toward their academic goals
- Students would be required to maintain satisfactory academic progress—as they are already required to do for other grants

Principles for Change – Total Cost

Link a student's financial aid to the total cost of attendance—not just the tuition and fees they pay directly to the colleges.

Program assumes students may have resources available to support costs:

- (1) A student's expected family contribution (EFC);
- (2) Other gift aid, including Pell Grant, Cal Grant, the existing California College Promise Grant (formerly titled the BOG Fee Waiver), and the Student Success Completion Grant; and,
- (3) Student self-contribution from work—with our commitment to better link the classroom to the workplace and student career goals.

The remaining amount would be funded through the new grant.

Principles for Change – Program Eligibility

Students come to the California Community Colleges with many educational goals—not necessarily to earn degrees or transfer, and students with other goals should receive financial support. The new grant would allow students enrolled in any community college program that meets the requirements for the federal Pell Grant to also be eligible for this grant.

How a New Grant Would Reduce the Price Students Pay to Attend California Community Colleges

+	Total Cost of Attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and Fees • Books, Supplies, Transportation, and Other Personal Expenses • Room and Board
-	Expected Family Contribution
-	Existing Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pell Grant • Cal Grant • Existing California College Promise Grant (BOG Fee Waiver) • CCC Student Success Completion Grant
-	Reasonable Contribution from Student Earnings or Other Resources
=	Additional Grant Funds Awarded to Student through New Grant



California Community College Commitment

New investments in financial aid should challenge our colleges to do more to improve student success. The Board of Governors embraces that challenge. As a condition of a college's participation in the program, the college would commit to ongoing reform.

Student Services	Statewide Program Participation
Early FAFSA or Dream Application completion	CA Guided Pathways Grant Program
Early completion of student financial aid files	K-12 Partnerships and Dual Enrollment
Informed Education Plans	AB 19 CA College Promise
Financial Aid counseling and holistic support services that serve the basic needs of students, including federal loan participation	AB 705 Developmental Ed Implementation

Questions?

