



CALIFORNIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2012-13 BUDGET POINTS

Community College League of California

JANUARY 2012

A BALANCED APPROACH

We support a balanced approach, including a modest increase in temporary tax revenues to protect vital state programs along with necessary budgetary cuts to bring the budget into structural balance.

NO FURTHER MIDYEAR CUTS

We oppose the reduction of general fund moneys in the current fiscal year (2011-12) for assumed redevelopment revenues until increased revenue from the wind-down of redevelopment agencies materializes and other deficits (including shortfalls of fees and property taxes) are addressed. It is estimated that these shortfalls will cost community colleges at least \$150 million alone in the current fiscal year. This unexpected cut, on top of the \$385 million already taken in the 2011-12 budget, further curtails student access and success.

SINCE 2009-10:

- actual per-student funding has been cut by \$300, while cost-of-living has increased 16%
- funding for 130,000 full-time equivalent students slashed
- deep cuts to student success initiatives
- fees have doubled from \$600/year to \$1,380/year

NEW TAX REVENUES TO RESTORE CUT CLASSES

We support development of an alternative to the deferral buy-down proposed by the Governor. While this accounting maneuver helps the state's books, a better investment to spur economic recovery would be funding high-demand courses in transfer, career technical and basic skills education and to support a new Student Support Initiative.

MAINTAIN COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY THROUGH CAL GRANTS

We oppose the proposed cuts to Cal Grants because they disproportionately impact community college students, both before and after transfer. Specifically, the proposed cuts would eliminate 30% of community college Cal Grant entitlement recipients who are dependents of parents with an average income of \$19,184. These grants are used to pay for books and other living expenses and, without them, students will find college unaffordable.

SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSITIONING FAMILIES

We oppose the CalWORKs and child care cuts which will effectively eliminate the possibility of education as a means to self-sufficiency and abolish the primary vocational training pipeline for child care workers in the state. Under the new work participation requirements outlined by the Governor, low-income students pursuing an educational plan at community colleges will no longer be able to attend. In addition, the Governor's child care cuts will result in the closure of an estimated 98 community college campus child care centers. On top of removing a necessary component which allows student parents to attend college, the state will lose a critical vocational education training pipeline. These combined cuts proposed by the Governor will eliminate the now-tenuous educational lifeline to social mobility for low-income students.

THE VOTERS PROPOSITION 98 COMMITMENT SHOULD NOT BE MANIPULATED

We oppose the proposed "rebenching" of Proposition 98 to include \$2.8 billion in general obligation debt as an unconstitutional manipulation of the school funding guarantee. Alternative revenue sources and solutions should be sought instead to minimize non-98 general fund expenditures if the tax measure is not successful.