



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CALIFORNIA HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET SETS STATE
ON A PATH TO RECOVERY WITH EQUITY**

The final budget reflects a historic commitment to affordability and reinvests significantly in California Community Colleges, California State University and University of California systems.

On Tuesday, July 27th, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the higher education section of the California State Budget. At a time when college opportunity is essential to a pandemic recovery, the Governor and Legislature make significant investments in college affordability and pathways into and through college. The Governor's "California Comeback Plan" includes a historic \$47.1 billion for the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), California Community Colleges (CCC) and financial aid.

"The historic investments Governor Newsom and our Legislature make today to ensure college is more affordable and accessible are critical to California's recovery and our future. It is a fact that college-educated individuals were more likely to stay employed and out of poverty during the pandemic than those with only a high school education, and the more college-educated Californians we have and the better we do at closing racial equity gaps in college going and attainment, the more resilient California will be in the face of future pandemics and economic downturns," said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

"This is a historic budget that sets California on a path to recover from the pandemic with equity. Governor Newsom and the Legislature have taken extraordinary steps to support historically excluded, minoritized and low-income students to get on a college track early, have the financial aid they need to make college a reality, have open seats waiting for them at the UC and CSU, and have strong pathways through college that ensure they don't fall through the cracks. This is the leadership required for a California Comeback," concluded Siqueiros.

Notably, the Governor and Legislature have come together to significantly expand the state's Cal Grant program for over 100,000 low-income community college students. By eliminating the antiquated age and time-out-of-high-school requirements, these qualified students will now get the aid they need to go to college and reach their dreams. The Governor and Legislature have also made summer financial aid for UC and CSU students permanent.

To improve college preparation and access for our state's diverse students, the higher education budget includes over \$500 million for high schools to increase the number of students completing college preparatory courses and adds a remarkable requirement that ensures all high school seniors complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) for financial aid.

The importance of transforming California’s transfer function and better streamlining pathways to degree is also a centerpiece of the budget. The final budget establishes a dual admissions program to provide eligible first-time freshman applicants to the UC and CSU an opportunity for guaranteed admission to a campus of choice upon completion of an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), a clear acknowledgement that the ADT is a robust, streamlined and highly effective transfer pathway from California’s community colleges to the state’s four-year universities. The budget also includes \$10 million for California Community Colleges to develop a common course numbering system to eliminate duplicative and confusing course numbering across the 116 campuses and \$50 million to support the implementation of Guided Pathways, of which the Associate Degree for Transfer is central.

The Governor and Legislature also double down on their commitment to California residents seeking a spot at the CSU and UC. The budget includes investments to reduce nonresident enrollment at the UC’s most popular campuses – UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego - replacing 900 nonresident students with California students annually. The CSU will see an additional \$81 million to increase undergraduate enrollment by 9,434 students in the 2022-23 academic year.

Acknowledging the urgency of meeting the basic needs of students exacerbated by the pandemic, the budget includes \$2 billion for a low-cost housing program at the state’s public colleges and universities, and over \$213 million in mental health services, emergency grants, and broadband access across the UC, CSU and community colleges.

Other important investments that are key to closing racial equity gaps in college attainment include \$10 million for the Rising Scholars program, which supports formerly incarcerated students to succeed at the California Community Colleges; over \$13 million for undocumented student services; and \$15 million to formally establish the state’s Cradle-to-Career data system, which will connect education, workforce and social services data to better serve students.

To read the official budget documents produced by the Department of Finance, click [here](#).

Key Higher Education Highlights

Restoring Base Funding

- Fully retire payment deferrals to CCCs from the 2020-21 State Budget
- 5.07% cost-of-living adjustment (\$371.2 million) to CCCs
- 5% ongoing base General Fund increases to the CSU and the UC beginning in 2021-22

Elevating Racial Equity

- **\$23.8 million** increase to Student Equity and Achievement Program funding at the CCCs
- **\$20 million** toward implementation of culturally competent professional development for CCC faculty
- **\$11.6 million** to fund Dreamer Resource Liaisons and immigrant student services at CCCs

Higher Education Coordination and Goal Setting

- Sets an **ambitious college attainment goal of 70%** degree attainment for adults
- **\$50 million** to support Guided Pathways implementation at CCCs
- **\$250 million to fund regional K-16 collaboratives** to streamline occupational pathways and align higher education with workforce needs
- **\$10 million** to create a **common course numbering system** at CCCs

Expanding College Access

- **\$547.5 million** for the A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program to support A-G course completion and course recovery, expanding access to the CSU and UC
- **\$22.5 million** to support the UC Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) and the enrollment and support of historically excluded students
- Establishment of a dual admissions pathway, enabling first-time freshmen applicants to be considered for **guaranteed admission to a UC or CSU campus of their choice upon completion of an Associate Degree for Transfer** or another transfer pathway at a CCC
- **\$23.1 million** to support enrollment growth at community colleges, and a commitment to provide **\$81 million** in the next fiscal year to support CSU enrollment growth

Supporting Students' Basic Needs

- **\$2 billion investment** in **student housing**
- **\$30 million to establish basic needs centers and hire basic needs coordinators** at CCCs
- **\$15 million** to support basic needs efforts at the CSU under the Graduation Initiative 2025
- **\$6 billion to expand broadband infrastructure and internet access** to historically excluded communities, including investments of \$8 million for CCCs and \$246,000 for CSUs to expand broadband access

Increasing Affordable Access to a College Degree

- **\$500 million** for a one-time grant program to support workers displaced by COVID-19 seeking educational opportunities
- **\$115 million** to develop and implement zero-textbook-cost programs at CCCs
- Maintains resident undergraduate tuition and fees at current levels for 2021-22 academic year at the CSU and UC
- Makes the UC and CSU **summer financial aid program permanent** and available on an ongoing basis

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About Campaign for College Opportunity:

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit www.CollegeCampaign.org / Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).