

ADVOCATE



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GOVERNOR'S FINAL BUDGET FOR California Community Colleges

By CTA Governmental Relations



Photo by [Josh Hild](#) on [Unsplash](#)

ON JUNE 22, 2024, the Legislature and governor reached a final budget agreement. Below are the major components of the 2024-25 budget agreement related to California Community Colleges.

Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF)

Includes \$100.2 million in ongoing Prop. 98 funding for a 1.07% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the SCFF.

Enrollment Growth

Provides \$28.1 million in ongoing Prop. 98 funding to support 0.5% enrollment growth.

Categorical Programs

Dedicates \$31 million in ongoing Prop. 98 funding to provide a COLA for select categorical programs.

Reserve Withdrawal

Utilizes a total of \$788 million in Prop. 98 reserves to support apportionment costs and categorical programs in 2023-24.

Payment Deferral

Includes a payment deferral for community colleges totaling \$246.7 million in Prop. 98 funding from 2024-25 to 2025-26. This results in a late payment of one month (from June to July 2025).

Part-Time Faculty Office Hours

Modifies the state reimbursement for the Part-Time Faculty Office Hours program to 90% of program costs, from the current 50%.

Education Student Housing Grant Program.

- ▶ Approves the governor's proposal to use \$50.6 million in General Fund dollars to support one-time payments to three districts for housing projects.

Nursing Program

Provides \$60 million one-time Prop. 98 funding each year for five years, beginning in 2024-25, to support the expansion of nursing programs. Creates the program within Strong Workforce program funding. Includes trailer bill language to develop a grant program to distribute the funding, with priority given to programs in an underserved nursing area or that expand existing programs.

Student Housing

Includes the following actions related to student housing for community colleges:

- ▶ Establishes the financing structure for a statewide lease revenue bond program to support the construction of 13 community college affordable student housing facilities selected in the 2022 and 2023 Budget Acts as a part of Higher



Back to SCHOOL

By CCA President **Eric Kaljumägi**

WELCOME TO THE START OF the 2024-25 school year! Five years ago when I started writing these articles, I had no idea that a worldwide pandemic would begin in just a few short months. We went from not knowing about the virus to completely closing campuses to going nearly 100% online to now acting in some ways like the virus never happened. Masks are now uncommon where I live, and social distancing appears to be forgotten save for a few worn social distancing markers on the floors of the occasional store.

Unfortunately, the virus is still with us. A couple of weeks ago the LA Times [Source: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-08-19/californias-relentless-covid-surge-worsens-fueled-by-a-much-more-infectious-variant>] noted that the “FLiRT” variant of COVID has reached some of the highest levels in wastewater since 2022. While vaccines, improved treatment options and immunity from past infections is limiting hospitalizations, a significant number of your students, who now are only occasionally taking precautions, will be missing class due to illness from COVID, influenza and the common cold. I encourage you to plan for having more absent students and possibly more used sick days yourself than in the pre-COVID years.

The good news is that the students are coming! According to the State Chancellor’s Office, the total FTES in the system (credit and non-credit combined) was 1.18 million in 2018-19, dropped to 974,000 in 2021-22 and now has rebounded to 1.10 million this past year. The Total Computational Revenue for all CCC districts went from \$7.20 billion in 2018-19 to \$9.55 billion in 2023-24. This 32.6% increase is well above the 23.3% inflation index (CPI-W) for the same timeframe. We are, at least at the moment, past the pandemic with regard to student headcount and state funding.

However, this doesn’t mean that we’re necessarily in for smooth sailing ahead. The CA Legislative Analyst’s Office is projecting deficits in each of the next few years [Source: <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4922>]. California’s high cost of living, combined with a limited housing supply, means that large numbers of our students will be housing insecure for years to come. In addition, the California Legislature continues to pass hundreds of bills each year, some of which require us to make changes to long accepted processes. Although we certainly can’t control everything around us, there are ways that you can influence the future of the State Community College system.

First, engage your local legislators. Your local board of trustees and your state legislators determine how many faculty to hire, how much funding to provide the colleges, and what most of the laws and regulations will be. While national politics may get most of the media’s airtime, your local legislators have the most influence over your classroom and your pocketbook.

Go to their events and meet with them and their staff. Tell them about your needs and concerns.

Second, engage your CCA leaders. As CCA President I attend the Board of Governors meetings. I am CTA’s appointee to the Chancellor’s Consultation Council, a member of the CCCCCO’s AI Council, and a member of Council of Faculty Organizations. CCA can, and does, bring items of interest to our members to state-level meetings, but we need to know what those items are. If you keep your regional CCA director or at-large CCA director informed about the state of your campus, the information we discuss at the CCA Board meetings will be more readily brought to Sacramento. You can also contact me directly at president@cca4us.org.

Third, get involved. Providing support to a local political candidate has a positive residual effect. Local union organizing often brings results. Attending a CCA conference (the next one is in late October in Burlingame) provides training as to how a union functions and offers networking opportunities beyond one’s local campus. Your local union president should have the registration information and the process for declaring you to be a delegate to our conferences. If you are a local president or State Council delegate, please attend our monthly online leadership Zoom meetings, and if you are part-time faculty, please attend our monthly Part-time Visioning sessions. You can find the exact times and sign-up information at <https://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=calendarforcca> or by clicking on the “Calendar” link on our website, <https://www.cca4us.org>.

I look forward to representing the 11,000 members of CCA this year and advocating for the needs of all community college faculty and their students. I look forward to hearing from you and learning about your local situation and your interests. Most of all, I look forward to seeing our union power grow through its members taking the actions I’ve mentioned above. May you have an engaging and productive semester!

Eric Kaljumägi
CCA President
president@cca4us.org

ADVOCATE

The Community College Association, with CTA and NEA as our partners, advocates for California’s public community college faculty, staff, and students; empowers locals; builds strong and effective coalitions; promotes equity, inclusion, anti-racism, social justice, and part-time faculty equality, and strives to preserve universal access to quality public education.

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- ▶ Approves the governor’s proposal to pull back funding from the Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund and forego planned future funding.

Financial Aid

Provides \$20 million one-time Prop. 98 funding to increase support for the Financial Aid Administration categorical program to support students in completing the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Other Programs

The budget agreement includes the following actions:

- ▶ Provides \$6 million one-time Prop. 98 funding to support the implementation of credit-for-prior-learning pathways.
- ▶ Provides \$5 million one-time Prop. 98 funding to support a Pathways for Low-Income Workers demonstration project. Creates the program within 2024-25 Strong Workforce program funding.

- ▶ Approves the construction phase of the Siskiyou Joint Community College District, College of the Siskiyous Remodel Theater and McCloud Hall project.
- ▶ Provides \$1.1 million one-time Prop. 98 funding to support a backfill for instructional hours related to the Apprenticeship program.
- ▶ Reduces state operations support for the Chancellor’s Office by 7.95%.

CALSTRS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

CalSTRS has legislation from the 2024 legislative session that will affect our retirement, sick leave transfers, calculations and more. Please visit calstrs.com/2024-legislation for information about these changes.



From left to right: Virgil Lee, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Norco College; Jennifer Floerke, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Moreno Valley College; Rhejean King-Johnson, Associate Faculty of Communication Studies, Moreno Valley College; Diana Campuzano, Associate Faculty of Art, Norco College; David Martinez, Associate Faculty of Kinesiology and Associate Head Baseball Coach, Riverside Community College

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT FACULTY ASSOCIATION Wins Health Care for All RCCD Associate Faculty

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the Riverside Community College District (RCCD) Board of Trustees unanimously approved the district to cover 100% of the health insurance premiums of eligible Associate Faculty members at all three of its colleges – Riverside Community College, Moreno Valley College and Norco College. Eligibility requires these members to have a teaching assignment of 0.4 or greater. Additionally, RCCD agreed to refund the money that Associate Faculty members spent during the 2023-2024 academic year on health care premiums for RCCD health insurance options.

But how did this win become possible? In an interview with the five-person RCCD Faculty Association negotiation team who worked so hard to secure this agreement, they highlighted that although this was a long process that started back in 2022, it was well worth it.

“
 Our administration had initially wanted to wait for a statewide insurance exchange to be created, so they stalled our negotiation. Thus, we pleaded directly to our Board of Trustees to bring the administration to the negotiation table, which was successful. We not only got free health care for our Associate Faculty members, but we also got them a full reimbursement for the money they spent on health care premiums for the year.

Virgil Lee,
 RCCD Faculty Association Co-Lead Negotiator and Full-Time Faculty at Norco College

“
 Having conversations to lessen fears from district management was key,”

Rhejean King-Johnson,
 Associate Faculty at Moreno Valley College

“
 We had colleagues from other chapters that shared their contracts and memorandums of understanding, so they had a lot of examples that we can learn from. Being really prepared was helpful because the district was not prepared.

Jennifer Floerke,
 Full-Time Faculty at Moreno Valley College

“
 This was an equity issue for employees since Associate Faculty members were the only major employee group in RCCD who weren't provided free health insurance. Also, once this agreement was in place, RCCD became the premium district in our region since it is the only district in the area that pays 100% of the health insurance premiums for its part-time faculty members. Only a few districts in the state have done this!

Virgil Lee

“
 We sincerely thank the RCCD administration and the Board of Trustees for working with the RCCD Faculty Association to bring health care equity to all RCCD employees. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the RCCD Faculty Association's negotiation team who worked so hard on securing this agreement.

Dr. Rhonda Taube,
 RCCD Faculty Association President

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LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE!

Vice President Kamala Harris with Jason Torres-Rangel, UTLA, 2023 California Teacher of the Year

2024 IS A CRITICAL YEAR FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION. We have the power at the ballot box to dedicate necessary resources to mental health and elect champions of public education and unions—from school board members all the way up to the California legislature. This year, there are over 2,000 school board races that we can win!

CTA recommendations for candidates and ballot measures are voted on by our State Council of Education. Nearly 800 State Council delegates meet four times a year and are all democratically elected educators from across California. This is where candidate recommendations made by local union members and approved by the CTA Board are brought to the floor for debate and final approval. Interviews and recommendations for pro-public education candidates and pro-public education positions on California initiatives are extensive, deliberate and important work in our union.

Some of our very own are running for seats in their local communities, such as Dr. Chris Cruz-Boone who is running unopposed for reelection to the Bakersfield City School District Board of Education, CTA Board Member Angela Der Ramos who is running unopposed for a Hartnell College Board of Trustees seat, and Ken Wagman who is running unopposed and will serve on the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees starting in early December. Additionally, CCA Vice President Randa Wahbe is running for a Citrus College Board of Trustees seat and Joshua Christ is running for a Fontana Unified School District Board seat.

“

I'm running for Hartnell Trustee because education is a path to equity, and this is especially true of community colleges like Hartnell. Language difficulties and financial hardship are common barriers, and many of our students make it through our school system, but not without academic struggles. Community college opens many doors for a great number of people who might not have access to four-year colleges or vocational training,” said Der Ramos.

“

We teachers have seen the impact on the students and faculty of the cutbacks from the recession 15 years ago, and we need to make sure current students and faculty aren't impacted that way again. This is a great opportunity to take what I've learned from my teaching and through my union work and be able to keep contributing to community college students and faculty. The California community college system is a valuable community resource, and we need to make sure it stays that way for future generations,” said Wagman.

“

Our students are the future, and our schools are where that future transforms from a fuzzy far-off dream into a clear and achievable reality. Every student deserves a robust public education that prepares them for the real world in a safe, equitable and inclusive environment that highlights and encourages individual strengths while fostering a sense of belonging and community,” said Christ when asked why he was running.

“

One of the reasons I'm running for Citrus College Trustee is because I believe in strengthening our community colleges, which are a critical pathway for so many to achieve their dreams. As a community college educator for over 25 years and a leader in educational planning at the local, state and national levels, I have the experience, knowledge and relationships to continue building upon the great partnerships between our community and the college,” said Wahbe.

Scan or visit cta.org/our-advocacy/election-2024 to see our recommended candidates, initiatives and make a plan to vote today!



MONTHLY PART-TIME VISIONING DISCUSSIONS ARE BACK!

The monthly Part-Time Visioning Discussions are back! These sessions are a great place to touch base with other part-time faculty across the state on the issues that matter to you the most. The next sessions are Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 19 and will be from 4 – 6 p.m. If you have any questions, you can email CCA Southern Part-Time Faculty Director Geoffrey Johnson at gjohnson@cca4us.org.

Scan the QR code to register for:



Sept. 24



Oct. 22



Nov. 19



REGISTER TODAY FOR THE CCA FALL CONFERENCE!

Don't forget to register for the CCA Fall Conference, which will take place next month from October 25-27, 2024, at the Westin SFO Airport. The conference is dedicated to enhancing bargaining skills and coordinating strategies focused on collective bargaining. In addition to sessions on bargaining-related issues and state budget and legislative updates, we have our first Council meeting of the academic year. The Fall Conference also features our CCA California Leadership Academy graduations.



Scan or visit cta.org/event/2024-ccafall-10-25-24 to register and learn more.

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STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS



Join CTA Member Benefits for the monthly “Generation Debt: Student Loan Forgiveness” sessions scheduled through early next year. Recently, the U.S. Department of Education made changes to how the student loan forgiveness programs are administered. Every session will explain the two loan forgiveness programs, the requirements, pitfalls to be cautious of and ways to potentially lower monthly payments. Members will learn about the “NEA Student Debt Navigator” powered by Savi, which is a tool to help association members analyze their personal student loans. Members will leave with a better understanding of what steps they should take.

Scan or visit ctamemberbenefits.org/Tools-And-Resources/Student-Loan to register today!

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