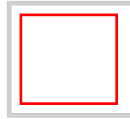


President's Monthly Message (archived)

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- updated **January 10, 2006**



THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FOR 2006-2007

The Governor's proposed 2006-07 Budget was announced today. The details pertaining to the Community Colleges are very interesting. Your faculty leaders have worked hard on the original System request and to encourage the governor to move toward this overall excellent start.

According to Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy, Robert Turnage, "Overall, this is a highly positive and encouraging budget for the California Community Colleges. It is clear that the Governor values the community colleges and the crucial role they play in California."

10.79% Proposition 98: The Governor proposes a year-to-year increase in the Proposition 98 base for the community colleges of approximately \$606 million, an 11.6% increase from current-year funding. The overall increase in Proposition 98 for K-14 education is \$4.3 billion. The community college share of Proposition 98 improves substantially-- from the 10.46% approved in last year's budget act to an estimated 10.79% for 2006-07.

Student Fees Held: Once again, the community college enrollment fee is held steady at \$26 per credit unit.

Specific proposed increases consist of the following:

- **COLA:** \$264.6 million for a 5.18% COLA for general apportionment.
- **COLA:** \$15.4 million for a 5.18% COLA for specified categorical programs (consistent with prior budget acts).
- **GROWTH:** \$148.8 million for 3% enrollment growth for general apportionment.
- **GROWTH – CATEGORICAL:** \$5.1 million for enrollment growth in specified categorical programs (consistent with prior budget acts) at the projected growth rate for the state's adult population of 1.74%.
- **EQUALIZATION:** \$130 million for equalization. This is more than the System asked for. A group of districts advocated for this amount and they were successful in getting their message to the administration. This fulfills the governor's commitment to fund equalization at \$240 million over a three year period.
- **CAREER-TECHNICAL:** \$30 million increase for an expanded initiative to improve career technical education programs and career technical education pathways between high

schools, regional occupational programs and the colleges. (\$20 million was provided for this initiative in the current fiscal year from one-time funds. The Governor's Budget thus continues this effort in 2006-07 at an expanded level of \$50 million, with all the funds being ongoing rather than one-time.)

- **DISABLED STUDENTS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:** \$9.6 million for Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) to support growing costs of sign language interpretive services and real-time captioning equipment for deaf and learning-disabled students.
- **CalPASS:** \$500,000 increase in the CalPASS program.
- **BA:** \$100,000 to fund two pilot programs intended to improve availability of baccalaureate-degree courses at community colleges that are distant from four-year campuses, pursuant to last year's AB 1280 (Maze).
- **TECHNICAL:** The remainder (about \$2 million) is the net effect of various technical changes, including debt service on lease-payment bonds, and a shift of the funding of "tax bail-out" child care programs conducted at community college campuses from the Department of Education budget to the Community Colleges budget.

Other noteworthy items:

- The Budget also includes \$585 million from state bond funds for capital outlay projects, consistent with the System's request submitted to the Department of Finance.
- Certain System priorities (for example, improved funding for noncredit programs and "rural access grants" for our smallest colleges) remain unaddressed at this point. The System intends to work through the Consultation process and with the Board of Governors, prior to the spring budget hearings in the Legislature, to identify potential sources of additional funding to meet these and other key System priorities.

The resounding defeat of the governor in November clearly is part of the reason that this budget is so good. Thank you all once again for helping to make this happen. But, it is a long way to May and we must work hard to sustain the excellent features of this proposal.

Any questions? Call the CCA office at 916/726-4207.

