



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Governor Signs 2008-2009 Budget

Governor Schwarzenegger signed the 2008-09 State Budget on September 23rd ending an historic 85-day standoff. The local assistance budget (funds appropriated by the state to local districts) remains unchanged from our update last week. With the governor making over \$700 million in line-item vetoes, this is welcome news for our colleges.

Community College Budget Highlights		
Issue	Governor's January Budget	Final Budget
Cost-of-living adjustment	None	0.68% (apportionments only)
Enrollment growth	1%	2%
Categorical programs	Cuts between 4-10%	2007-08 funding levels
Property Tax Backfill	None	\$75,000,000
Competitive Cal Grants	Proposed to be eliminated	Program preserved

Unfortunately, the System Office of the California Community Colleges, which had been scheduled to receive a \$200,000 cut by the Legislature, was cut an additional \$331,000 (for a total of \$531,000) by the Governor. These cuts are unallocated, and hamper an agency that has already been cut significantly and will likely create hurdles for the transition to the new state Chancellor, Senator Jack Scott.

Technical Details:

Cash Flow: The budget includes a change in cash flow provided by the state to education agencies, including community colleges. Unlike previous years, around 23% of state payments normally provided in January, February and March will be deferred until April. The League is coordinating a supplemental tax revenue anticipation notes (TRANs) issuance for districts that will need additional cash due to this change.

Growth and Restoration: One-year language included last year to prioritize restoration over enrollment growth was removed from the budget. Thus, restoration and enrollment growth will be treated separately and will both be deficiated, if needed, accordingly.

Gubernatorial Action on Legislation

By midnight of September 30th, Governor Schwarzenegger had vetoed a record 35% of bills sent to him by the Legislature. By all press accounts his action set a modern record for gubernatorial vetoes. The Governor's press office officially announced that "In 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger has signed 772 bills and vetoed 415 bills." As far as bills followed by the League, the Governor approved eleven supported bills; approved one opposed bill; vetoed six supported bills; and vetoed two opposed bills. Given consideration of the dire budget circumstances of the State of California, the delayed budget, and the strained relations between Governor Schwarzenegger and the State Legislature, the System Office nevertheless successfully achieved many components of the 2008 Community College Legislative Program.

End of Year Legislative Report

The 2008 End of Year Community College League's Legislative Report is available at: <http://www.ccleague.org/files/public/08FinalLegRep.pdf>

Final Action: BOGCCC Community College 2008 State Legislative Program

College Awareness and Access

- School-to-College Bridge Program
Status: Deferred due to State Budget crisis. Consultation Budget Task Force recommends 2009-2010 budget proposal \$9.7M
- Online Instructional Materials (AB 577 (Ruskin) and a BCP)
Status: AB 2261 (Ruskin) Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger, Chapter 671
- Inmate Education
Status: SB 413 vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.
Veto Message: "This bill is substantively similar to a bill I previously vetoed in a prior legislative session. While I respect the author's attempt to get community colleges to play a role in improving instructional delivery to correctional inmates, this bill as drafted appears to create inappropriate fiscal incentives for community colleges, state prisons, local correctional agencies, and other contracting entities that may lead to supplanting current funding provided through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation."
- Expand Access to Pell Grant and Other Financial Aid (BCP)
 - Placeholder for potential new bill to develop legislative framework
Status: Deferred due to State Budget crisis. Governor Schwarzenegger targeted the Competitive Cal Grant program for elimination. Legislature restores Cal Grant and rejects plan to eliminate the program. Legislative restoration approved by the governor in the State Budget Act.

Student Success and Readiness

- Concurrent Enrollment – Support and sponsor AB 1409 (Portantino)
 - Extend provisions that expire in 2009 - established by AB 967 (Canciamilla, 2005) and SB 1303 (Runner, 2006)
Status: SB 1437 (Padilla) Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger, Chapter 718.
- Textbook Relief – Placeholder for potential new legislation
Status: AB 2261 (Ruskin) Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger, Chapter 671
- Early College Assessment
Status: SB 946 (Scott) Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger, Chapter 473
- Transfer Initiative
Status: SB 1585 (Padilla) Vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger
Veto Message: “I am returning Senate Bill 1585 without my signature. While I appreciate the intent to increase transfer rates of basic skills students from the community colleges to the four-year segments of higher education, significant funding has been provided to the community colleges for basic skills students, the University of California for cooperative transfer out reach with community colleges, and other programs for the purpose of enhancing transfer success. Given the efforts to resolve the current budget deficit, it is not advisable to create new programs when existing resources are already being directed to meet the objective.”

System Effectiveness

- Field Act Process Relief – Sponsored legislation
 - Continue efforts for process relief, and support SB 588 (Runner)
Status: SB 588 (Runner) Approved by Governor Schwarzenegger, Chapter 588
Signing Message: “While Senate Bill 588 moves the issue in the right direction, it does not completely fulfill the spirit of the intent of the Legislature when it passed specific provisions in AB 127 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2006), and the voters when those provisions in Proposition 1D were approved in November 2006. Therefore, I am signing SB 588 as an interim step for community colleges to utilize, with the expectation that the issue of allowing the California community colleges to utilize either the Field Act or the California Building Standards Code, without additional bureaucracy is addressed and look forward to addressing this issue in a comprehensive manner in any future education bond measure.”

Strengthening Communities Through Education and Integration Act of 2008

Action Needed! Call on Congress to Support the “Strengthening Communities Through Education and Integration Act of 2008.”

In July, Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA) and Rep. Illeana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduced legislation to address the educational barriers and integration challenges faced by communities across the country. The Strengthening Communities through Education and Integration Act of 2008 (H.R. 6617 and S. 3334) invests resources in Latino children and workers, while encouraging state and local governments to proactively work with new immigrant

communities. MALDEF, business, education, faith and civil rights community strongly support this legislation.

The Strengthening Communities through Education and Integration Act of 2008 promotes critical goals that are shared by the public and private sectors by providing individuals with English literacy and civics education, investing in the training and development of our workforce, and building stronger communities by assisting the integration of new populations.

Specifically, the legislation will:

- Increase investment in elementary, secondary, and adult education, with a special focus on English as a Second Language (ESL) and civics programs;
- Encourage the research and development of “best practices” for educating English language learners;
- Support the recruitment and retention of ESL teachers through tax credits;
- Create tax incentives for employers to offer adult education and ESL programs for their employees; and
- Promote civic participation and productive dialogues in communities by establishing local integration councils.

As our nation continues to grow and the demand for highly-skilled workers increases, we must accelerate the integration of English language learned children and adults into society and develop local solutions for welcoming newcomers into our communities. The Strengthening Communities through Education and Integration Act will improve academic preparation and economic competitiveness by providing resources for literacy and civics education programs. Additionally, this legislation promotes a positive dialogue in state and local communities among key stakeholders by establishing New American Councils and creating a grant program for integration efforts.

Supporters of this legislation request contacting your members of Congress and U.S. Senate to tell them: “We need to invest in workforce education and put resources in to the integration of immigrants. Please co-sponsor H.R. 6617 and S. 3334, the Strengthening Communities through English and Integration Act of 2008, to help millions of adults and children to achieve the American Dream.” Contact your congressional representatives TODAY by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Your input makes a BIG difference, and every message counts. Do your part for the America’s future and tell your representatives that you support the Immigrant Integration Act. Congress will reconvene for business in early November, following the national elections. Your contacts will set the stage for future action on this legislation and possibly the DREAM Act.

California Forward (CF) Postpones Session on Community Colleges

In response to concerns expressed by interim Chancellor Woodruff and incoming Chancellor Jack Scott, staff of California Forward have moved their previously-scheduled workshop on community colleges from October 24th to February 27th. They also have committed that they will consult with the System Office regarding the invitation list, and will share, in advance and for comment, materials that they propose to use at the February session. Members of the Consultation Council also agreed to work with the System Office to develop materials showing community colleges in a positive light and to use the forum to educate business, legislative, and

policy leaders on the positive roles of community colleges as well as the areas where community colleges could do a better job with more funding or more coherent policies.

Full-time Faculty Obligation

The system office will be presenting an item to the BOG at their November meeting on full-time faculty obligation number (FON) for districts and will recommend whether the new FONs should be triggered, given funding provided in the 2008-09 budget. The League plans to have CEOs and trustees in attendance to share their viewpoints with board members.

Staffing Changes

- Cliff Brock, superintendent/president of Barstow CCD since 2005, has announced that he will retire in January, 2009.
- George Herring is the interim president of College of Alameda, effective September, 2008, replacing Cecilia Cervantes who has taken a position out of California.
- Randy Lawrence, formerly vice president of instruction at Olympic College in Washington, is the new superintendent/president at Siskiyou CCD.
- Murray Haberman, executive director of CPEC since 2004, will retire effective Dec 31st 2008, but has agreed to serve as interim until June 2009 or until a new director is named., whichever is earlier.
- Dave Long, Governor Schwarzenegger's Education Secretary, resigned on September 10th, after 18 months on the job. No replacement has been named.
- Victoria Bradshaw was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to be his Deputy Chief of Staff and Cabinet Secretary, replacing Dan Dunmoyer. Bradshaw served as Secretary for Labor and Workforce Agency, where she worked closely with the California Community Colleges on many key initiatives regarding workforce development and economic development.