

# **COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA**

## **Government Relations Guiding Principles**

### **2025-26 Legislative Session**

#### **Government Relations Department of the Community College League of California**

**Mission:** To represent and promote the role of community college districts in state and federal lawmaking.

**Vision:** To be the most relied-upon voice for the California Community Colleges (CCC) in state and federal lawmaking.

#### **Policy Principles:**

1. Promoting community colleges as indispensable locally governed open-access institutions of higher education whose focus is student success, equity, and economic development.
2. Advancing diversity, inclusion, and equity at our districts and colleges statewide.
3. Coalescing all strata in our system to educate lawmakers and the general public on the tremendous return on investment in community colleges.
4. Emphasizing stability, predictability, and flexibility within the framework of equity in budget advocacy.
5. Prioritizing base operating dollars and statewide policies that entrust local decision-making to allow community colleges to tailor their programs and services to meet the unique needs of their local communities.
6. Modernizing financial aid to address the total cost of student attendance and ensuring that financial aid offices are appropriately funded.
7. Ensuring that community colleges can provide the scope of basic needs to foster student success.
8. Supporting community college personnel through professional development.

#### **Operating Procedures:**

1. The League will continually build and develop trusted relationships with those who make, influence, and implement policy.
2. In fulfillment of the League's membership-driven approach, the respective CEOCCC and CCCT boards will strive to develop common advocacy priorities and resolve policy differences.
3. The League's priority in legislative, budgetary, and regulatory activities relates directly to community college districts.
4. The League will engage Trustees, CEOs, and other local leaders in shaping its legislative positions and grassroots advocacy.

5. The League will maximize the role of Trustees and CEOs in effective governance while recognizing the important roles of other community college stakeholders.
6. The League will convene other CCC stakeholders, including the Chancellor's Office and Board of Governors, to exchange ideas and advance shared priorities.
7. The League will mobilize students, faculty, staff, and others to contact elected officials on critical issues affecting our institutions.
8. The League will integrate its professional development offerings and district services with its internal and external communications to advance its priorities in government affairs.
9. The League will employ its government relations personnel to educate CEOs, Trustees, and other district leaders on legislative advocacy, policy development, and system history.

### **Use of Principles:**

At the beginning of each two-year legislative session, the CEOCCC and CCCT boards will review and adopt the principles. League staff will:

- Publish and promote those principles on its website, newsletter, government relations webinars, and other materials.
- Incorporate the principles when forming staff recommendations on budget, legislative, and federal proposals.
- Regularly report to both the CCCT and CEOCCC boards on the progress of advocating for the principles in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.