

Los Angeles Community College District

2014 Legislative Issues and Priorities

10/9/2014
McCallum Group, Inc.

Executive Summary

2014 Legislative Priorities for LACCD

- ⇒ Concurrent/Dual Enrollment: This policy proposal would provide greater flexibility for community colleges to work with their K-12 partners in the context of a transfer or CTE pathway-partnership. The partnership would allow for greater streamlined movement from K-12 to community colleges and onto a four-year institution or into the workforce.
- ⇒ Career Pathways: Working on the implementation of the Career Pathways Trust that was a part of the recent budget act, LACCD would seek to access approximately 10% of the funding available to community colleges.
- ⇒ Weighted Student Formula for Community Colleges: This policy proposal would extend to community colleges a similar funding basis that was a part of the K-12 funding formula in this year's budget act. Under the proposal, we would begin a conversation about addressing the needs of students that are underprepared and cost more to educate. The new formula would provide districts that serve a disproportionate number of these students with the resources necessary to undertake proven success strategies.
- ⇒ Stem-Based Pilot Project: This policy proposal would create a pilot project that would include at least 6 districts serving high populations of under-prepared students. The pilot would provide additional resources to these districts to focus on providing education and student success strategies in the STEM fields that could be replicated throughout the state. The proposal would only move forward if there were other districts willing to participate.
- ⇒ Automatic Apportionment Backfill: This policy proposal would provide for budget certainty by providing for either a continuous appropriation, or the periodic "truing up" of apportionment shortfalls. Prior to moving forward with this proposal, we will wait to see the reconciliation of the current-year apportionment shortfall.

Other Issues for Involvement/Support

- ⇒ Adult Education/Non-Credit Consortiums: The recent budget act includes \$25 million in planning grants for community colleges and K-12 districts to work together to develop plans for offering adult education regionally. Under the plan, the district will work with LAUSD to access the funding for the development of the plan.
- ⇒ Statewide Education Bond: There is pressure to pass another statewide education bond next year. LACCD has at least one project on the list for funding from that bond. The district will work to support the effort to pass the measure.

LACCD 2014 Priorities

Concurrent/Dual Enrollment

Background

Concurrent/dual enrollment has proven successful at improving student success while moving students through community college and higher education more quickly. Additionally, California policymakers are setting the stage for greater collaboration between community colleges and K-12 schools. Included in this year's budget were two initiatives that seek to encourage community colleges to partner with K-12 schools to provide certain educational opportunities to students. Those two programs are the career pathways trust and the adult education consortia. There are a significant number of strategies that studies have indicated have a positive effect on increasing the numbers of students who complete to receive either a BA or an AA degree. Among the most important are policies that work to improve students' preparedness for college so that they come to community college more ready for college-level work. One of those strategies is dual/concurrent enrollment.

Proposal

Create a concurrent/dual enrollment overarching policy that enables community colleges to more seamlessly work with their K-12 partners in educating high school students and improving pathways to higher education and the workforce for those students. The proposal would remove some of the barriers that enable concurrent/dual enrollment programs to be most successful. Under the proposal, relief would come in the context of a transfer or CTE pathway-partnership agreement with a local K-12 district and would address, but not be limited to the following issues:

- ✓ Include remediation courses
- ✓ Collection of FTES/ADA for education provided
- ✓ 5% cap on summer school attendance
- ✓ Ability of colleges to offer courses on high school campus during high school hours
- ✓ Open course requirements
- ✓ 11-unit cap on units a student can take
- ✓ Include online education in program
- ✓ Allow for the joint occupancy of leased facilities

Career Pathways Trust

Background

As part of the recent budget act, the legislature passed and the governor signed trailer bill language providing \$250 million in funding to establish the Career Pathways Trust. The funding is to be used to help students move through high school, into college and into the workforce. The regulations are being developed in the Department of Education, but will have input from the state Chancellor's Office.

Proposal

Work with LAUSD to create a plan and apply for approximately 10% of the funding. Work to link the pathway plans with proposed changes to dual enrollment to maximize CTE pathways.

Weighted Student Formula for Community Colleges

Background

Last year, California enacted funding reform for K-12 schools. Under the new formula, students with the most need receive the most support. Specifically, English learners, low income and foster youth students receive additional state support. Districts serving a disproportionate number of the targeted students receive additional funding for each of those students.

Also last year, the California community college Chancellor's Office unveiled the Student Success Scorecard. The scorecard tracks college students in areas such as persistence and completion. One of the trends that the scorecard has revealed is the correlation between a student's level of learning upon entering a community college and their likelihood of completion. According to the scorecard, one of, if not the primary, determinant of success is what level of learning a student enters college at. The further below college level that a student is entering a community college, the less likely that he or she will complete.

Proposal

We suggest a weighted student formula for community colleges. The weighted formula would apply to future COLA, growth and student success categorical program funding. Underprepared and at-risk students cost more to educate, therefore, providing for a formula that adequately addresses the needs of these students will increase the likelihood of their success. Rather than just looking at numbers of students, the new formula should take into account factors such as:

- ✓ Participation rates
- ✓ Number of under-prepared students
- ✓ Student and family income levels

The funding will provide colleges that serve a disproportionate level of these students with the resources that they need to undertake proven best practices in bringing students up to college level and to completion. The funding could provide for:

- Targeted "boot camp" remediation courses
- Summer bridge programs
- Accelerated learning
- Contextualized learning
- Faculty and staff development
- Increased counseling and wrap around services
- Software for student academic plans and tools for progress
- Additional faculty and support staff to implement student success services

STEM-Based Pilot Project

Background

The recent state Chancellor's Office Student Success Scorecard demonstrates a correlation between a student's preparedness for college level work and his or her success at community colleges. Los Angeles Community College District ranks among the highest in terms of percentage of students that come to the colleges underprepared. Many experts have indicated recently that the key to maintaining an innovation economy is education in STEM fields. Additionally, there is a great need to fill jobs in the STEM fields and California's higher educational institutions must step up to educate students in these areas.

Proposal

Create a pilot project for the Los Angeles Community College District and at least five other districts to focus on education in the STEM fields. The funding level of the pilot would be determined based on the number of districts that would want to participate. Since students that are underprepared for college cost more to educate, the additional funding would allow for the Los Angeles Community College District and the other pilot districts to look at innovative ways to improve success that can be duplicated throughout the state. This proposal would only be included if LACCD is among six or more districts interested in undertaking such a pilot program.

Automatic Apportionment Backfill

Background

Over the last few years community college budgeting has moved from 2/3 general fund and 1/3 revenue assumptions to 1/3 general fund and 2/3 revenue assumptions. The fact that over half of the community college budget is based on assumptions leaves community colleges unable to accurately plan budgets. Additionally, the last several years, we have seen inaccurate assumptions that have left community colleges with gaping midyear budget gaps that needed to be filled.

Proposal

Provide for an automatic backfill for apportionment shortfalls whether they be property tax, fee or RDA related. The legislation would either provide for a continuous appropriation, similar to the funding model for K-12 schools, or would provide for an automatic, regular "truing up" so that districts could accurately plan their budgets and not have to wait for the state to react and backfill any shortfall. Moving forward with this proposal would be contingent upon the determination made at the end of the year by the Department of Finance as to what level of backfill to provide community colleges.

Other Items for Involvement/Support

Adult Education/Noncredit Consortiums

Background

As a part of the recent budget act, the legislature passed and the governor signed trailer bill language providing \$25 million to fund planning grants for community colleges and K-12 schools to develop adult education regional consortiums. The RFA for the grants will be developed through the state Chancellor's Office in coordination with the Department of Education. The consortiums will then be eligible for part of a potential pot of approximately \$500 million in two years to fund the consortiums.

Proposal

Work with the state Chancellor's Office and LAUSD to position the district to receive approximately 10% of the funding to create an agreement between the two districts. Additionally, generate agreement with LAUSD on a strategy for securing future funding from the proposed \$500 million to provide education in targeted areas.

Statewide Education Bond

Background

There has not been a statewide education bond since 2006. Community college funding was completely committed a few years ago and the final remaining dollars are currently being expended on two remaining projects. The system need is significant. Additionally, funding for K-12 projects has run out. This has created significant pressure in the legislature to pass a statewide bond to continue to fund educational facilities. Finally, in the last education bond, community colleges received 50% of the higher education funding. UC and CSU would like that split to go back down to 1/3, 1/3, 1/3.

Proposal

Advocate for a statewide education bond that would include significant funding for higher education. The bond would include funding for a facility at East Los Angeles College. Ensure that community colleges continue to receive 50% of the higher education funding included in the bond.