

CCCI California Community College Independents

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To: Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Senator Holly Mitchell
Senate Republican Leader Patricia Bates
Senator Jim Nielsen
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Assembly Republican Leader Brian Dahle
Assemblymember Jay Obernolte

Fr: Jeffrey Michels, President
David Balla-Hawkins, Advocate

Re: **Community College Funding Formula and Online College – OPPOSE**

The California Community College Independents (CCCI), an association of independent faculty unions representing over 12,000 community college faculty teaching more than a half-million students, strongly **OPPOSES** the change in the community college funding formula and the establishment of a new online community college. There is compelling evidence that these two proposals – absent any further analysis or study – will fail our students.

Both the new funding formula and the online college proposal seem to place political interests ahead of student interests. We hope you will oppose these proposals and, in so doing, stand up for our students and colleges.

Community College Funding Formula

Changes to the funding formula as reflected in the May Revise have been made in haste and have ignored input from faculty, students, staff and administrators throughout the community college system. There is also substantial research and unchallenged data showing that performance-based funding schemes fail to achieve desired outcomes and result in substantial harmful consequences.

The proposed funding formula:

- **Forces a radical downsizing of college budgets for 1/3 of all community colleges**, especially those in high-priced residential markets (Bay Area, Silicon Valley, Coastal, Orange County, Suburban San Diego) where expenses are higher, and the impact on students and programs will be even worse.
- **Widens the gap between the richest and poorest districts by over 25% in just two years.**
This runs counter to the legislature's historical position that ensures all districts are equally and fairly funded.

- **Undermines recent efforts to expand Career-Technical Education and non-credit programs for workers** by incentivizing colleges to shift resources *away* from those areas. The formula values transfer degrees over CTE certificates by 4 to 1, and there is no provision in the formula to address the needs of non-credit students.
- **Risks inadvertently hurting students of color and low-income students** and the colleges that enroll large numbers of these students. By incentivizing behaviors that have not been fully defined or connected to improved student outcomes, the funding formula will almost certainly shift colleges away from student-centered advising and academic programming.

In short, the new funding formula poses a **substantial and unnecessary risk to our students and colleges**. As one college president recently wrote, “the fact that this continues to get rolled out without adequate analysis and gee-whiz second guessing is dumbfounding.” We agree.

We therefore urge you to reject this unproven proposal and redirect the funds allocated for this purpose to (1) the community college base allocation and (2) programs that support full-time faculty hires and part-time faculty office hours, which have strong demonstrated research foundations for improving student success.

Online Community College

The online college proposal is equally ill-considered, rushed, and unwise. It too lacks broad support anywhere in the community college system. **Quite simply, the proposal wastes money and risks foreclosing options for students who would be better served by full-service colleges.** Our 114 CA community colleges are entirely able to meet the needs of California students if given sufficient support and resources. Rather than beginning a whole new college and wasting millions of dollars developing a new bureaucracy, the proposed allocation of \$120 million would be much better spent expanding the existing community college Online Education Initiative.