



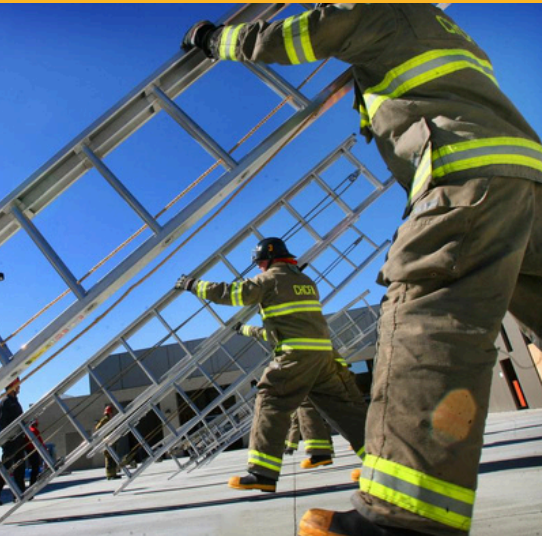
SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

2026 LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET PRIORITIES

AFFORDABILITY

JOB TRAINING

OPPORTUNITY



THIS IS SBCCD

OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY
ACROSS THE INLAND EMPIRE
SINCE 1926



Affordable Higher Education



Each year, **30,000 students** attend Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College for high-quality education that costs about 6 times less than CSU and 16 times less than UC.

Providing Health & Safety



Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College train most of the firefighters who protect our communities, along with many of the nurses, paramedics, and emergency responders serving the region.

Training for Good-Paying Jobs



SBCCD's Economic Development & Corporate Training Center is one of California's largest workforce training providers. Hands-on programs include welding, electrical work, heating and air conditioning, and shrub and tree trimming around power lines to reduce wildfire risk.

Informing with Local TV & Radio



SBCCD owns and operates KVCN, the Inland Empire's PBS and NPR affiliate, serving 4.6 million residents on 91.9 FM and TV Channel 24. KVCN is also home to First Nations Experience (FNX), the nation's only television channel dedicated to Native American and Indigenous programming.

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SBCCCD SERVICE AREA



SBCCD serves 23 cities and unincorporated communities across the Inland Empire, home to 765,547 residents (2020 Census). Since the last census, the district's population has grown by 7.3%, outpacing California's 6.1% increase. Our service area includes the cities and communities of Angelus Oaks, Big Bear City, Big Bear Lake, Bloomington, Blue Jay, Cedar Glen, Colton, Crestline, Fawnskin, Forest Falls, Grand Terrace, Green Valley Lake, Highland, Lake Arrowhead, Little Creek, Loma Linda, Mentone, Redlands, Rialto, Running Springs, San Bernardino, Twin Peaks, and Yucaipa.

100 YEARS OF OPPORTUNITY



Dear Reader,

For 100 years, the San Bernardino Community College District has helped Inland Empire families afford college and move into good jobs without taking on unnecessary debt.

SBCCD began in 1926 with San Bernardino Valley College. As the Inland Empire grew, we expanded with Crafton Hills College in 1972, KVCR Public Media in 1953, and the Economic Development and Corporate Training Center in 2001. Each step followed the same purpose: affordable, high-quality education close to home.

Today, SBCCD offers one of the most affordable paths to college and career training in the region. Students earn college credits, certificates, and job skills at a fraction of the cost of four-year universities, often without taking on significant debt.

We train the people the Inland Empire depends on every day, at work, at school, and in emergencies. Nurses, firefighters, paramedics, teachers, law enforcement officers, and skilled-trade workers. Programs in welding, electrical work, and heating and air conditioning provide hands-on training that leads directly to local jobs. Employers across the region rely on our graduates to keep hospitals staffed, classrooms open, and communities safe.

Affordable colleges don't just happen by chance. They exist because of steady public investment and smart policies that keep community colleges open and accessible. When that support is there, college and career training stays affordable and opportunity stays within reach. When it isn't, costs rise and opportunity narrows.

Our 2026 Legislative and Budget Priorities, approved by the SBCCD Board of Trustees, reflect a shared commitment to college affordability, workforce readiness, and opportunity for our region. We look forward to continuing this work together for the next generation of Inland Empire students.

Diana Z. Rodriguez, Ed.D.
Chancellor

MAKING COLLEGE & CAREER TRAINING MORE AFFORDABLE

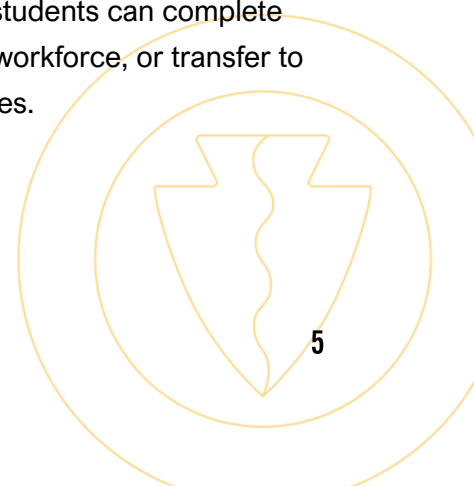


Streamline Access to Local and State Resources for College Affordability and Self-Sufficiency

- **SBCCD is committed** to putting students on the path to self-sufficiency and career success by supporting streamlined referral systems and data-sharing between community colleges and local and state public agencies.
- **By reducing red tape**, improving government efficiency, and safeguarding student privacy, colleges can connect students to essential resources such as financial aid, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, and housing referrals.
- **This approach eases** financial burdens, improves college affordability, and strengthens pathways to degrees and career training. The result is a skilled workforce, the breaking of poverty cycles, and sustained economic growth in the Inland Empire.

Expand State Financial Aid for Adult Learners and Workforce Pathways

- **Expand Cal Grant C** to better support adult learners and part-time community college students, particularly those pursuing short-term workforce training and industry-recognized career certificates tied to high-demand occupations.
- **Fully fund and implement the Cal Grant Equity Framework**, recognizing that while the framework has been adopted, key elements remain unrealized and are still essential to meeting the needs of community college students.
- **Align state financial aid policy** with the California Student Aid Commission’s Student Success Blueprint, which calls for targeted aid reforms to better serve adult learners, part-time students, and workforce pathways.
- **Address the full cost of attendance**, including books, housing, food, and transportation, so students can complete training, enter the workforce, or transfer to four-year universities.





Support FAFSA Implementation and Expanded Pell Grant Access

- **SBCCD supports the continued implementation of federal FAFSA simplification** to ensure students can apply for and receive financial aid without unnecessary barriers. Colleges need resources for outreach, application assistance, and follow-up so simplification results in higher completion rates and aid reaching students. These efforts help low- and middle-income students, working adults, and veterans enroll more quickly and save time and money.
- **SBCCD supports increased investments in the Pell Grant and the Workforce Pell** to expand eligibility for high-quality, short-term workforce programs at community colleges. These investments allow adult learners to gain skills for in-demand jobs and support regional workforce needs.

Promote Affordable Access to Textbooks and Learning Materials

- **SBCCD supports** policies, funding, and partnerships that make textbooks and learning materials more affordable and accessible for students. By negotiating agreements with textbook companies to lower costs and expanding initiatives like open educational resources (OER), the Zero Textbook Cost initiative, textbook rental programs, and digital access options, we can reduce financial burdens on students. These efforts help ensure students have the tools to succeed in their studies and develop the skills essential for the workforce.



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR GOOD-PAYING CAREERS



Expand Bachelor's Degrees at Community Colleges to Meet Regional Workforce Shortages

- **SBCCD supports** expanding bachelor's degree offerings at community colleges to prepare students for high-demand careers. Currently, Crafton Hills College offers a bachelor's in Respiratory Care, and San Bernardino Valley College offers one in Water Resources Management—fields critical to our region's health and sustainability.
- **Adding new bachelor's** degree programs in other career fields will address regional workforce needs and strengthen partnerships with four-year universities to support student success.

Enhance Credit for Prior Learning to Support Adult Learners

- **SBCCD supports** competency-based education and other efforts that allow students, including military veterans and working adults, to earn college credit for relevant work and life experience. This helps students save time and money while completing degrees or certificates.
- **SBCCD also supports** policies that ensure credit for prior learning earned at community colleges transfers smoothly to UC and Cal State, so students can continue their education without repeating coursework.



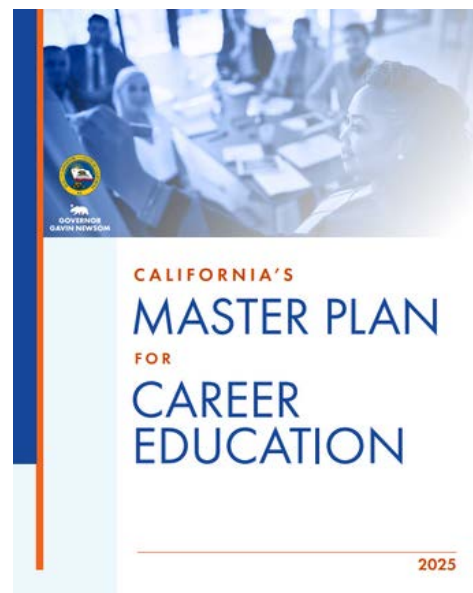


Support \$10 Million for the San Bernardino Job Growth Corridor to Modernize Job Training Facilities

- **Both the SBCCD Economic Development & Corporate Training Center and the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center** are in critical need of life and safety infrastructure improvements and space modernization to support hands-on training for first responders and essential industry jobs.
- **SBCCD is seeking \$10 million** to create the San Bernardino Job Growth Corridor, a revitalization project to modernize job training facilities located in the neighborhood adjacent to San Bernardino International Airport, the former Norton Air Force Base. These upgrades will revitalize the community, address regional job training needs, and equip a skilled workforce to drive economic growth.

Strengthen Apprenticeships and Career Education Systems

- **SBCCD supports the Governor’s goal** of creating 500,000 earn-and-learn apprenticeships by 2029 and advocates for funding to strengthen initiatives like the California Apprenticeship Initiative. Apprenticeship opportunities enable students to earn credit toward certificates or degrees through on-the-job training or classroom-based experiential learning—reducing the need for students to give up income while pursuing education.
- **Moreover, SBCCD supports the core principles of the Master Plan for Career Education**, which aims to modernize how education and workforce systems work together, ensuring learners gain skills and qualifications for high-opportunity careers.



BUILD AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING & COMBAT HUNGER

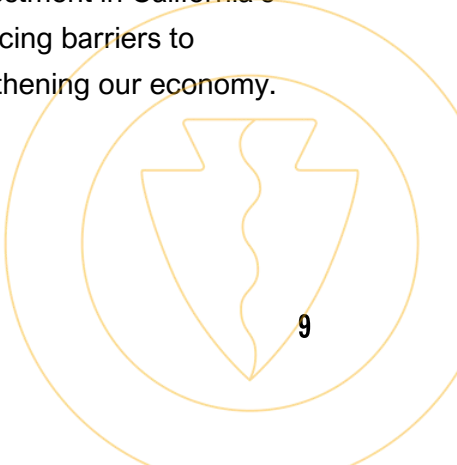


Support Fair and Flexible Funding for Affordable Student Housing

- **Student Housing at San Bernardino Valley College:** SBCCD seeks \$50 million in matching funds to build Legacy Village at San Bernardino Valley College, creating about 490 housing units on district-owned land for students, student parents, and local workers, with on-site basic needs services.
- **Affordable Student Housing Grant Program:** SBCCD supports increased funding for the Affordable Student Housing Grant Program so shovel-ready community college projects are funded, including housing for former foster youth at Crafton Hills College.
- **Family-Friendly Student Housing:** SBCCD urges state funding formulas that support family-friendly student housing. Many community college students are working adults with children, and traditional dorm-style housing does not meet their needs.

Expand CalFresh Access at Community College Cafeterias for a Healthy Future Workforce

- **Hard-working community college students** gaining career skills to become self-sufficient often struggle to access affordable, nutritious meals on campus. Current regulations classify college-owned and operated cafeterias with over 50% prepared foods as restaurants, restricting CalFresh/EBT usage despite their focus on healthy, accessible options. This creates unnecessary barriers for students who rely on CalFresh/EBT to meet basic needs.
- **SBCCD advocates for an exemption** allowing campus-owned dining facilities to accept CalFresh/EBT regardless of the percentage of prepared foods. This change would ensure students have access to affordable meals, helping them stay productive, complete their programs, and enter the workforce prepared. Expanding CalFresh/EBT access on campuses is an investment in California’s talent pipeline, reducing barriers to success and strengthening our economy.



OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE



Building a Community of Respect, Belonging, and Opportunity

- **SBCCD supports funding and policies** that ensure broad access to education, career training, financial aid, and student support services, while prioritizing safety and well-being on our campuses.
- **As an open-access public institution,** SBCCD fulfills the mission set forth in California’s Master Plan for Higher Education by keeping college affordable and workforce training accessible to all who seek it. We are committed to treating students and employees with dignity and respect.
- **By fostering a welcoming and safe learning environment,** SBCCD helps students and employees reach their potential, succeed in the workforce, and contribute to the Inland Empire’s long-term prosperity.

Support Hispanic-Serving Institutions to Meet Employer Demand for a Qualified Workforce

- **SBCCD supports state and federal policies, initiatives, and investments** that strengthen Hispanic-Serving Institutions, including Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College, by expanding access to STEM education, workforce training, and transfer pathways. These investments prepare the healthcare workers who keep us healthy, the first responders who keep us safe, and the skilled professionals who drive our economy forward.

Strengthen Equal Employment Opportunity Best Practices

- **SBCCD supports** ongoing funding to align hiring practices with statewide equal employment opportunity goals, fostering workplaces and learning environments where employees and students can succeed. These investments support employees and students who contribute meaningfully to our communities.

SAFEGUARDING OUR FISCAL STABILITY



Protect Funding for Community Colleges Under Proposition 98

- **Proposition 98**, passed in 1988, mandates a minimum state funding level for K-12 schools and California community colleges. We urge policymakers to protect state funding for community colleges. Ensuring community colleges receive their fair share of funding is essential to maintaining educational quality and accessibility.

Provide CalSTRS/CalPERS Relief

- **SBCCD supports** state funding to “buy down” employer contribution rates for CalSTRS and CalPERS. By reducing these costs, colleges can free up funds to invest in student programs, support services, and workforce training, directly benefiting students and the community.

Ensure Emergency Preparedness and Immediate Relief for Our Community Colleges

- **In times of crisis**, such as wildfires, extreme heat, snowstorms, and pandemics, community colleges like SBCCD face significant challenges in maintaining operations and supporting students, faculty, and staff. Delays in accessing emergency funds can disrupt essential services, including broadband access, and hinder our ability to serve the community effectively during recovery.
- **SBCCD supports** partnerships and funding to quickly address the safety and technology needs of our campuses. Securing rapid access to emergency resources ensures our colleges remain operational during crises and emerge stronger, ready to drive the Inland Empire’s recovery and growth.





Support the CCC's 2026-27 Systemwide Budget Request

- **SBCCD supports** the California Community Colleges' 2026–27 systemwide budget request of \$508.1 million in ongoing funding and \$208.4 million in one-time investments to strengthen college operations, support faculty and staff, and expand academic and workforce pathways. These investments would benefit students by growing dual enrollment, improving transfer and completion, and aligning education with high-demand careers across the state.

Sustaining KVCR Public Media as an Essential Public Service

- **SBCCD owns and operates KVCR** as a public service, providing free PBS and NPR programming, local news, and emergency information to 4.6 million Inland Empire residents. KVCR delivers educational programming that supports early learning for children, lifelong learning for adults, and engagement for senior citizens.
- **Recent cuts in federal support** for public broadcasting resulted in the loss of approximately \$550,000 in annual funding, about 6 percent of KVCR's operating budget. Without additional support, these reductions could limit locally produced educational and informational programming that communities across the Inland Empire rely on.
- **SBCCD supports** policies and investments that help sustain local public media as a trusted source of education, information, and civic connection.





San Bernardino
Valley College

Big Picture:

- Legacy Village is designed for students and the local workforce, including student parents, veterans, former foster youth, and students at risk of homelessness. The project is designed to accommodate future partnerships that provide access to essential services such as health care, food access, and retail.

By the Numbers:

- 15 acres purchased by SBCCD thanks to taxpayer supported Measure CC
- \$183.3 million already invested through a public-private partnership.
- 490 units of affordable and market-rate housing for students and local residents.
- 10-minute walking distance from SBVC.
- Fall 2026 groundbreaking
- Fall 2029 first housing units open (phased)

Partnership Needed:

- SBCCD is seeking **\$50 million in matching funds** to ensure rents remain affordable for students.



Big Picture:

- Crafton Hills College completed a feasibility plan for on-campus housing primarily for former foster youth, providing stable, affordable housing to reduce barriers to enrollment, persistence, and degree completion.

By the Numbers:

- 171 beds of on-campus student housing
- Ranked **#9 statewide** on the Affordable Student Housing Grant Program waitlist
- State funding request: \$46.9 million (2022 dollars)
- District contribution: \$16.4 million (2022 dollars)

Partnership Needed:

- SBCCD is seeking a funding solution to advance this **shovel-ready** project, which meets all state requirements but **remains unfunded** due to limited capacity in the Affordable Student Housing Grant Program.





SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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SBCCD.edu



CraftonHills.edu



ValleyCollege.edu



KVCRC.org



SBCCD.edu/EDCT

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OUR MISSION

SBCCD positively impacts the lives and careers of our students, the well-being of their families, and the prosperity of our community through excellence in educational and training opportunities.

OUR VISION

Inspiring possibilities for bright futures and a prosperous community.