

**San Bernardino Community College District
Board Legislative Committee
April 8, 2021**

State Advocacy Update

SBCCD and RCCD Joint Advocacy

The SBCCD Board Legislative Committee, Chancellor and Campus Presidents have collaborated with their counterparts at the Riverside Community College District to meet with legislators to discuss shared policy priorities. To date, the SBCCD and RCCD delegation has held six (6) meetings with state leaders. Advocacy has centered on securing state budget support to ensure safety, equity and opportunity for Inland Empire community college students. Shared priorities include:

- **Financial Aid/Cal Grant Reform** – Expand and modernize the Cal Grant program to make it more equitable for community college students relative to their peers in UC/CSU.
- **General Fund, Cost of Living Adjustment and Apportionment** – Fund state budget deferrals; provide community colleges with an automatic tax property tax fill; close the equity gap in COLA for community colleges (1.5%) and K-12 (3.84%), and provide equity with state apportionment.
- **Mental Health Services** – Support \$10 million ongoing from Proposition 63 administrative funds for expansion of mental health services (AB 940 McCarty).
- **Food & Housing** – Support investment in campus food pantries through CalFresh, and support public-private partnerships to develop affordable student housing.

Governor and Legislature Approve Emergency Relief for Students

On February 23, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law a comprehensive package of immediate actions that will speed needed relief to Californians suffering the most significant economic hardship due to COVID-19. The package, passed by the Legislature, builds on the initiatives in the Governor's January state budget proposal to provide cash relief to lower-income Californians, including:

- **Emergency Financial Relief to Support Community College Students.** This provides an additional \$100 million in emergency financial aid for qualifying low-income students carrying six or more units, with award amounts to be determined locally and made available by early April. In addition, the agreement provides \$20 million to reengage students who have either left their community college studies because of the pandemic or to engage students at risk of leaving.
- **CalFresh Student Outreach and Application Assistance.** This provides roughly \$6 million to support outreach and application assistance to University of California, California State University and California Community College students made newly eligible for CalFresh – the state-administered federal program for supplemental food assistance. The agreement also provides \$12 million in state funds to support associated county administrative workload.

Key Legislative Dates

- Feb. 19 – Last day for bills to be introduced
- June 4 – Last day for Senate and Assembly to pass bills introduced in that house
- June 15 – Budget bill must be passed by midnight
- September 10 – Last day for any bill to be passed

SBCCD-Supported Legislation

AB 75 (O'Donnell): K-12 & Community College Facilities Bond Act of 2022

Board Legislative Principle: Increased Public Investment in Student Success

This bill would set forth the Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2022 as a state general obligation bond act that would provide an unspecified amount of funds to construct and modernize education facilities, as provided. The bond act would become operative only if approved by the voters at an unspecified statewide election in 2022.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB75

AB 102 (Holden): Dual Enrollment

Board Legislative Principle: State and Federal Partnerships

Staff Recommendation: Support

Would remove sunset on College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships, making the program permanent. Would allow county offices of education to participate in CCAP partnerships.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB102

AB 417 (McCarty): Funding for Rising Scholars Network: Justice-Involved Students

Board Legislative Principle: Increased Public Investment in Student Success

Staff Recommendation: Support

Would authorize the Chancellor's Office to establish a program, named the Rising Scholars Network, to enter into agreements with up to 50 community colleges to provide additional funds for services in support of justice-involved students.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB417

AB 469 (Reyes): High School Graduation Requirements: Financial Aid Applications

Board Legislative Principle: College Affordability & Student Basic Needs

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would require a school district, county office of education, or charter school to ensure that a 12th grade student completes and submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The bill would authorize, under certain conditions, the school district, county office of education, or charter school to exempt a pupil who fails to comply with the requirement due to extenuating circumstances.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB469

AB 927 (Medina): Community College Baccalaureate Degree

Board Legislative Principle: Equity

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would extend the operation of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program indefinitely. The bill would remove the requirements that the program consist of a maximum of 15 community college district programs and for a student to commence a program by the end of the 2022–23 academic year. The bill would require a community college district seeking approval to offer a baccalaureate degree program to provide evidence of unmet workforce needs to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, as provided.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB927

AB 1106 (Cervantes/Reyes): Employment Training Panel Pilot

Board Legislative Principle: Increased Public Investment in Student Success

Staff Recommendation: Support

Would require the Employment Training Panel to establish a pilot program to serve the employment training needs of small businesses and strengthen the linkages between higher education institutions and employers.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1106

AB 1326 (Arambula): Public social services: county liaison for higher education.

Board Legislative Principle: College Affordability & Student Basic Needs

Staff Recommendation: Support

Would require a county human services agency to designate a staff liaison as a point of contact for academic counselors and other professional staff at community colleges located within the county.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1326

AB 1456 (Medina): Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Reform

Board Legislative Principle: College Affordability & Student Basic Needs

Staff Recommendation: Support

Under the current system, low- and middle-income students enrolled at CSU and UC can receive Cal Grants to cover tuition and fees. Many low-income community college students and some students at four-year universities are also eligible to receive additional Cal Grants worth \$1,656 to cover non-tuition expenses. This bill would target aid by making financial need the main consideration in determining eligibility. Currently, financial need is taken into consideration but students must also be of a certain age and maintain a certain grade point average to be eligible for a Cal Grant. Those requirements would be eliminated or eased under the new proposal. Source: <https://bit.ly/31dJi6r>

AB 940 (McCarty): Mental Health Services

Board Legislative Principle: College Affordability & Student Basic Needs

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would amend Proposition 63 by appropriating an unspecified amount annually from the administrative account of the Mental Health Services Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of California, the Board of Trustees of the California State University, and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as specified, to implement the College Mental Health Services Program. The bill would require those funds to be used for the purpose of increasing campus student mental health services and mental health-related education and training. The bill would require campuses that participate in the program to report annually on the use of those grant funds and to post that information on their internet websites.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB940

AB 1377 (McCarty): Student Housing

Board Legislative Principle: College Affordability & Student Basic Needs

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would establish the California Student Housing Revolving Loan Fund Act of 2021 to provide loans to qualifying applicants of the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges for the purpose of constructing affordable student housing, as specified. The bill would establish the California Student Housing Revolving Fund in the State Treasury, and would continuously appropriate moneys in the fund without regard to fiscal years, thereby making an appropriation, to the California School Finance Authority to provide loans to qualifying applicants of the California Community Colleges, as provided, and to the California Educational Facilities Authority, to provide loans to qualifying applicants of the University of California or the California State University, as specified. The bill would require each authority to submit a report, by March 15, 2023, to the Department of Finance and the budget committees of the Assembly and Senate containing information on the act, as provided.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1377

SB 45 (Portantino): Funding for Fire Training Programs

Board Legislative Principle: Increased Public Investment in Student Success

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would place a \$4 billion bond for wildfire prevention on 2022 ballot. \$5 million of those funds would go to community colleges for related workforce development.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB45

SB 45 (Portantino): Funding for Fire Training Programs

Board Legislative Principle: Increased Public Investment in Student Success

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would place a \$4 billion bond for wildfire prevention on 2022 ballot. \$5 million of those funds would go to community colleges for related workforce development.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB45

SB 228 (Leyva): Foster Youth

Board Legislative Principle: Equity

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would change the eligibility criteria for the NextUp program to allow students in foster care after the age of 13 to participate and be eligible for priority registration. This bill also allows colleges to use funds on enrolled NextUp students before their first day of class and allows colleges to prioritize students with lower incomes.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB228

SB 737 (Limon): California Student Opportunity and Access Program

Board Legislative Principle: Equity

Staff Recommendation: Support

This bill would update the California Student Opportunity and Access Program's (Cal-SOAP) statutory functions to serve as the state's primary financial aid outreach and assistance program. SB 737 would supplement high school and college counseling by making college success coaches available to students to ensure they complete the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application at all Cal-SOAP sites, including the Inland Empire.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB737

Legislation of Interest (Position Under Review)

AB 89 (Jones-Sawyer) Peace officers: minimum qualifications.

Staff recommendation: Monitor

Would raise the qualifying age to become a peace officer from 18 to 25, unless the individual has a bachelor's degree.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB89

AB 99 (Irwin): Statewide Cradle to Career Data

Staff recommendation: Monitor

Would codify recommendations in the [Cradle to Career Data System](#) Legislative Report.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB99

AB 275 (Medina): Classified Employees

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

This bill would shorten the maximum length of a prescribed period of probation to 6 months or 130 days of paid service for classified community college employees, whichever is longer.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB275

AB 288 (Bonta): Student Financial Aid

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

This bill would ensure that private scholarships supplement, and do not supplant, gift aid, grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, and fellowship stipends provided by institutions of higher education to California students who have financial need.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB288

AB 289 (Calderon): Classified School Employee Elections

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

This bill would mandate additional ballot secrecy in the voting process for the adoption or termination of a merit system for classified employees of a community college district; and would further prohibit a representative of the district from marking the ballot or envelope of any employee.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB289

AB 295 (Jones-Sawyer): Work Group to Examine Tuition and Fees

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

This bill would establish a working group consisting of representatives from the State Department of Education, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, the Trustees of the California State University, and the Regents of the University of California to consider the creation of a pilot program that would provide free postsecondary education in the state by replacing the system of charging students tuition and fees for enrollment at a public postsecondary institution. The bill would also require the working group to submit a report to the Legislature on the pilot program.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB295

AB 438 (Reyes): Classified Employees: Layoff Notice and Hearing

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

Under existing law, classified employees of school districts and community college districts subject to layoff as a result of the expiration of a specially funded program at the end of a school year are required to be given written notice on or before April 29 informing them of certain rights. Existing law also requires that notice be given not less than 60 days before the effective layoff date if the termination date of a specially funded program is other than June 30, or if classified employees are subject to layoff as a result of a bona fide reduction or elimination of a service performed by a department. This bill instead would revise and recast provisions relating to the layoff of classified employees of school districts and community college districts to require certain notices and opportunities for a hearing when a classified employee's services will not be required for the ensuing year due to lack of work or lack of funds. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature in enacting the bill to provide classified school employees with the same rights to notice and hearing with respect to layoffs as is provided to certificated employees of school districts, including teachers and administrators, and academic employees of community college districts.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB438

AB 928 (Berman) Postsecondary education: transfer process.

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

This bill would establish an intersegmental implementation committee to hold campuses accountable and enable a statewide focus on simplifying transfer. This bill would also consolidate the two existing general education pathways into one that meets admission requirements at both the CSU and UC. This bill would also automate the placement of all community college students onto an ADT pathway intended for their major.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB928

SB 20 (Dodd) – Student nutrition: eligibility for CalFresh benefits

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

This bill expands criteria for which a student receives written notice from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) that they may be eligible for CalFresh benefits based on certain exemptions permitted by federal regulations and to the extent that the commission possesses pertinent information. It further requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to adopt regulations so that a student who qualifies for a fee waiver (BOG waiver), and whose household income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, may also qualify for CalFresh benefits to the extent permitted by federal law.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB20

SB 22 (Glazer): K-12, Community College, CSU and UC Facilities Bond 2022

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

This bill authorizes \$15 billion for the construction and modernization of public preschool, K-12, community college, University of California (UC), and California State University (CSU) facilities to be placed on the ballot for statewide elections in 2022. If passed by voters, the facilities bond would allocate \$9 billion for Pre-K-12 schools, \$2 billion for community colleges, \$2 billion for Cal State system, \$2 billion for UC system.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB22

SB 40 (Hurtado): Health Care Pipeline

Staff Recommendation: Monitor

Would create the California Medicine Scholars Program, a 5-year pilot program commencing January 1, 2023, and would require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to establish and facilitate the pilot program. The bill would require the pilot program to establish a regional pipeline program for community college students to pursue premedical training and enter medical school.

Source: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB40

Federal Advocacy Update

SBCCD Signs the “Double the Pell” Coalition Letter

On March 25, SBCCD joined more than 300 organizations and nearly 900 individual colleges and universities to urge Congress to bring an affordable, high-quality college education within reach for all students by doubling the maximum Pell Grant. This important investment will drive economic recovery, advance equity in college completion rates, and increase overall educational attainment. Doubling the maximum Pell Grant is an issue Congress can agree to on a bipartisan basis as a fast and effective way to bolster opportunity for millions of students. SBCCD looks forward to working with members of the House and Senate and the Biden administration to enact this important public policy initiative.

A copy of the coalition letter [is available online](#).

SBCCD Advocates for Capital Financing Program for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI)

On March 1, SBCCD officials met with Congressman Pete Aguilar to discuss a proposal by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and University (HACU) to establish a capital financing program to provide a new funding source for HSIs to repair, build and modernize educational facilities. The meeting included leaders from Cal State San Bernardino and Riverside Community College District. SBCCD will continue working with HACU and Congressman Pete Aguilar on this issue.

Congressman Aguilar Announces Community Project Funding

The U.S. House of Representatives will consider Community Project Funding (CPF) request in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations process. As the Representative for California’s 31st Congressional District and as a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Pete Aguilar is allowed to advocate for a maximum of ten projects that serve the needs of our community. Congressman Aguilar’s office will accept CFP proposals through Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

More information is available in the enclosed letter from Congressman Aguilar’s office.

U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021

“On February 18, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA) introduced the bicameral U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, a comprehensive immigration reform bill that seeks to overhaul the U.S. immigration system and create a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants. Specifically, the bill provides an expedited three-year path to citizenship for dreamers, those with Temporary Protected Status, and some farmworkers. The bill would also provide all other undocumented immigrants who pass background checks and pay taxes with an eight-year path to citizenship without fear of deportation. If efforts to pass the bill in the Senate through regular order proves unsuccessful, it is currently unknown if Democratic leadership will consider passing components of the bill through the budget reconciliation process.” -- Source: CCC Chancellor’s Office; March 22, 2021



PETE AGUILAR
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
31ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

March 22, 2021

Dear Community Leader,

I am writing to inform you the U.S. House of Representatives will consider Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations process. This targeted funding will allow Members of Congress to advocate for a maximum of ten projects that serve the needs of our communities. As the Representative for California's 31st Congressional District, and as a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am accepting CPF proposals in the Inland Empire through **Wednesday, April 14, 2021**.

To ensure projects are a good and responsible use of taxpayer funds, the House Appropriations Committee has established a number of requirements. The Committee has banned Community Project Funding for for-profit recipients, and has mandated that non-profit entities must provide documentation of their 501(c)(3) status. Requesting entities must ensure that they can meet relevant matching requirements and can execute funding by September 30, 2021. Further, all projects must demonstrate strong evidence of community support, including:

- Letters in support of the project from elected officials or other community leaders
- Press articles highlighting the need for the requested Community Project Funding
- Support from editorial boards of local newspapers
- Documentation that projects are listed on state or local use plans, community development plans, or other publicly available planning documents, including State Improvement Plans or Metropolitan Improvement Plans, or
- Resolutions passed by city councils or school boards

The Committee is committed to a transparent and open process for Community Project Funding. All requested projects submitted to the Committee will be posted on my official website and linked to a repository on the Committee's website. Additionally, I am required to verify that my immediate family and I do not have a financial interest in the proposed projects.

My office has prepared an online FY22 Community Project Funding request form. Before submitting your request, please review the following template and technical guidance from the subcommittee relevant to your request. **Please be advised that CPF proposals received after the April 14th deadline will not be considered.**

We look forward to working with you to support key priorities of the Inland Empire. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at RepAguilar.Appropriations@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Aguilar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress