

S11-11-11 Equitable College Funding

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Sponsor:

WHEREAS, the Student-Centered Funding Formula allocates approximately 70 percent of California Community College system funding through enrollment-based, supplemental, and student success metrics intended to prioritize districts serving Pell Grant recipients and other low-income students, positioning SCFF as the primary mechanism through which the state distributes institutional operating resources tied to equity and completion outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the California Community College system serves as the state's primary engine of socioeconomic mobility, enrolling more than 1.9 million students across 116 colleges and generating approximately \$128 billion in annual economic activity—equivalent to 4.2 percent of California's total state product—while supporting one out of every sixteen jobs statewide, affirming community colleges as a central public asset for economic stability and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, Santa Monica College Academic Senate for Institutional Effectiveness analyses presented to Santa Monica College District Planning and Advisory Council indicate that SCFF does not recognize international student success outcomes and excludes students who continue limited enrollment after transfer from being counted as “fully exited,” resulting in institutions such as Santa Monica College recording 2,448 student transfers while only 1,697 were recognized for SCFF purposes, contributing to documented revenue shortfalls reflecting systemic disincentives that penalize cost-saving student enrollment behavior; and

WHEREAS, Student-Centered Funding Formula allocations are provided to districts as unrestricted funds, the eligibility criteria and outcome definitions used to calculate those allocations—including exclusions, delayed metrics, and narrow success classifications—functionally constrain institutional capacity by limiting access to funding despite demonstrated student demand and documented success outcomes; so be it

RESOLVED, That the Student Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Chancellor's Office to recommend adjustments to SCFF that ensure a greater share of institutional funding is allocated without restrictive eligibility exclusions or outcome disqualifications including reducing reliance on a three-year rolling average in favor of a year-over-year increase where it more accurately reflects current enrollment and institutional costs, reaffirming cost-of-living considerations for high-cost regions, support reinstatement of full cost-of-living adjustments, and ensure that students enrolled across winter, spring, or post-transfer terms are recognized within student success metrics; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Student Senate for California Community Colleges work with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, local academic senates, and legislators to support the development and statewide adoption of clear, manageable, and transferable curriculum pathways aligned with SCFF accountability measures, including pathways that

recognize international student success and reduce institutional penalties tied to student enrollment persistence; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Student Senate for California Community Colleges urge the Legislature and Chancellor's Office to affirm stable and predictable state funding for community colleges by ensuring that institutional allocations reflect actual student outcomes, enrollment demand, and regional cost structures; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Student Senate for California Community Colleges recommend reforms to the Student-Centered Funding Formula that increase the proportion of funding allocated through stable, qualification-neutral base allocations, ensuring colleges are not financially penalized for student-centered enrollment behaviors, delayed outcome reporting, or success pathways that fall outside current metric definitions, while preserving local discretion over the use of allocated funds for faculty, counseling, basic needs, and academic programs aligned with student success and workforce demand.

[1]

<https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/College-Finance-and-Facilities-Planning/scff-dashboard>

[2]

<https://admin.smc.edu/administration/business-services/budget/documents/WhatistheStudentCenteredFundingFormula.pdf>

[3]

<https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/College-Finance-and-Facilities-Planning/scff-dashboard/phase-2>

[4] [BudgetForum11-24-2025.pptx](#)

[5]

<https://admin.smc.edu/administration/governance/district-planning-policies/documents/DPAC-IEC-Presentation.pdf>

[6]

<https://admin.smc.edu/administration/governance/academic-senate/committees/IE/DPACReports/2024-2025-IEC-Report-DPAC-Approved-2025-05-14.pdf>